

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

NEW SERIES.

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No. 549.—VOL. VII.

LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1865.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED, 4D.

THE FENIANS.

A COMPARATIVELY rude blow has been struck at the Fenian "brotherhood," which, we trust, it will be unable to survive. Its principal organ has been stopped, and several of the biggest of the brethren are said to have been arrested. It is unfortunate that anything of the kind should have occurred; for the fact of measures having been taken against Fenianism proves that it had acquired a certain importance, and no men of business will invest capital in a country in which society is threatened by the existence of secret revolutionary bodies. Fenianism cannot injure England, but it may yet do considerable political and commercial harm to Ireland.

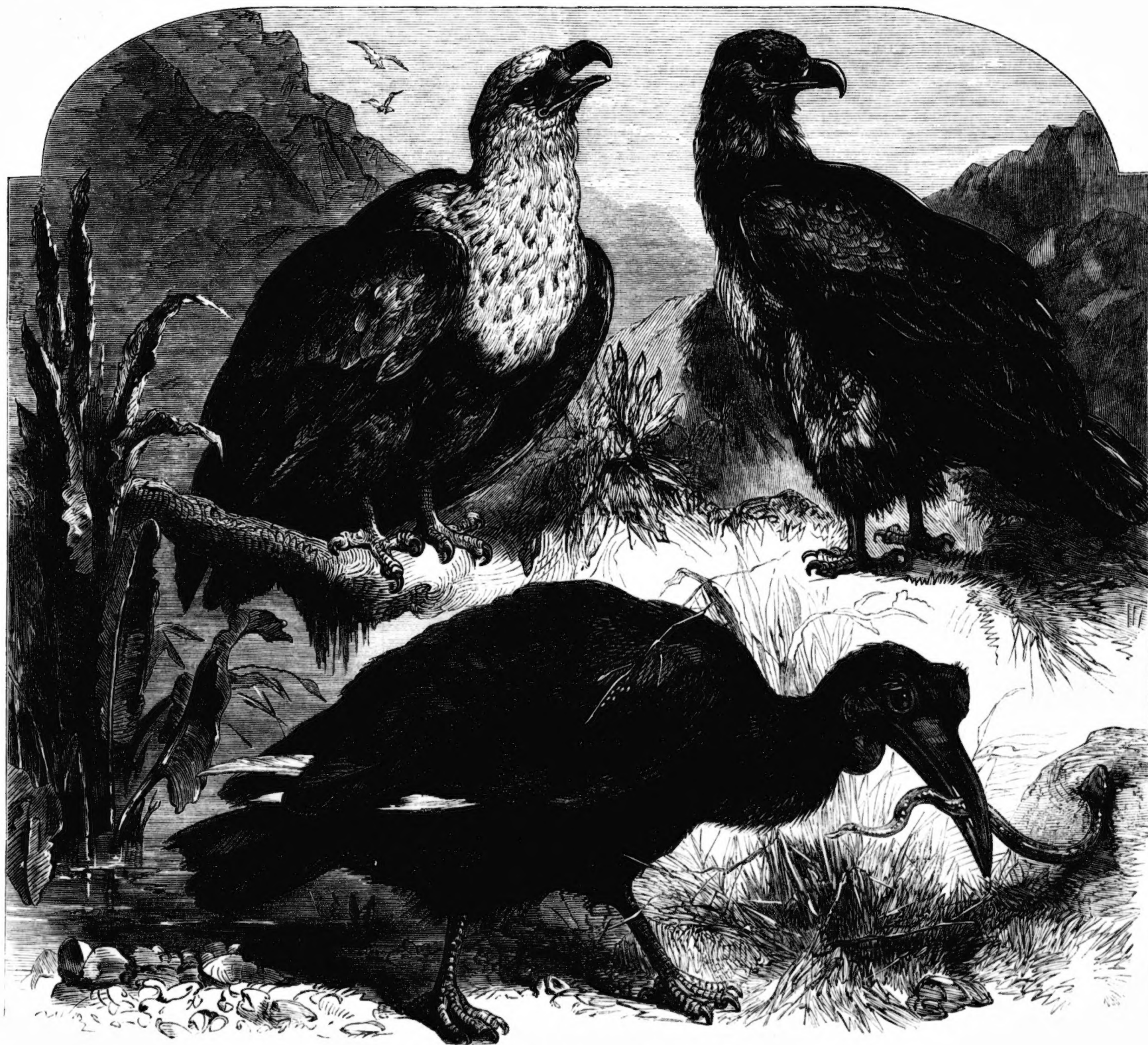
In the meanwhile what does Fenianism really mean? England has in former times behaved unjustly to Ireland, and the Irish have undoubtedly a right to hate the English if they think it reasonable to detest the present generation for the faults or even crimes of their predecessors. But it may be

as well to remember that in however sad a position the Ireland of the last century was placed, the Ireland of the present day is quite as free as England. The Ireland of the present day possesses, like England, civil liberty, political liberty, religious liberty, and commercial liberty. Between the Irishman and the Englishman—between the Catholic and the Protestant—there is no difference before the law. There are certain public offices, it is true, which Catholics cannot hold—those of Regent of the United Kingdom, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. But, with the exception of the Irish chancellorship, there are good practical reasons for not appointing Catholics to either of the above offices, though, theoretically, it may seem unjust that every place in the British Government should not be equally open to Catholics and to Protestants.

In fiscal matters Ireland is not only treated equitably, but,

as compared with England, is favoured. With the exception of the income tax, all the taxes levied in Ireland are taxes on articles consumed—chiefly in the form of customs and excise duties. On the whole, the Irishman pays much less per head than the Englishman, and nearly all the money raised in Ireland by taxation is spent there. Thus, if England ruins Ireland, the English Exchequer, at least, profits little by the operation.

As to the landed proprietors, they are heavily taxed for the relief of the poor, the poor rate being, indeed, the most important tax paid in the country. From the extension of the poor law to Ireland in the year 1846, until the year 1861, nearly fourteen millions were raised under this head; and in some parts of the country, in certain years, proprietors have had to pay away their whole income in the form of poor rates. It is neither true that Ireland as a country is sacrificed to England, nor that the poor in Ireland are sacrificed to the rich.



SCREAMING EAGLES AND AFRICAN HORNBILL AT THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

It is also to be remarked that the Government spend one hundred thousand pounds annually on hospitals and dispensaries in Ireland, and that the Irish people can obtain gratuitous primary instruction at the Irish national schools, which are supported by an annual grant of several hundred thousand pounds.

In spite of all this, there may be a certain number of Irishmen who cannot endure the notion of their ancestors having been conquered many centuries ago by the ancestors of the English of the present day, and who, without considering whether, not independence (for that is out of the question), but an attempt to gain independence, might or might not benefit their country, choose, all the same, to proclaim the right of the Irish to give themselves a Government of their own choice. Hitherto, however, very few arguments have been put forward by the Irish that have gone to this extent, and no such arguments are worth considering, if only for the reason that scarcely anyone belonging to the educated classes in Ireland ever resorts to them. The one grievance of which the Irish Catholics would seem to have a right to complain is the existence of the Protestant Establishment; but, although its maintenance is undoubtedly an injustice, it is certainly not felt as such by the great bulk of the Irish population. This fact is admitted in the very number of the *Irish People* that was seized the other day at Dublin.

What, then, is the meaning of the Fenian movement? What change in the laws of the empire would satisfy its promoters? or is separation from England the one great object of the absurd scheme? Hitherto we have not heard of a single practical demand being made by the poor Fenians. Irish independence seems really to be the chimera that they are pursuing; and if this be the case, it is of course no use to argue with them. The only thing to do is to let them have their own way until they commit an evident breach of the law, and then prosecute them.

As to what has already been done by the Government in the matter of the Fenians, it is difficult to speak either with approval or disapproval. The whole facts of the case are not before us; but we can scarcely suppose that without some special reason the police would have broken into the office of a newspaper proprietor who, if not without bad intentions, was certainly without the means of carrying them out, and who, for good or evil, had no influence whatever in the country which it was his ambition to revolutionise. At first sight, however, it seems to us that such a harmless, however ill-meaning, journal as the *Irish People* might safely have been left to the ordinary action of the law. At this particular moment, one great object of the authorities in Ireland should be to make no victims—to give no cause for sympathy. If the editors and publishers of the *Irish People* were also the chiefs of the Fenian organisation, there may have been good reason for arresting them; but if their offence consisted solely in their connection with that mildly-seditious journal, it would have been better to have left them alone, or, at least, to have proceeded against them in the ordinary manner.

Some of our contemporaries have ingeniously discovered that the feeble endeavours on the part of the Fenians to get up an insurrection in Ireland are wonderfully like the great attempt made by the Confederate States of America to conquer their independence. The *Daily News* in particular is very much struck by this analogy, which, however, has no real existence—for whereas the Southern rebellion was headed by the principal men in the Southern States of America, the Irish disaffection is not countenanced by any of the principal, or even of the ordinarily respectable, men in Ireland. The English have much to answer for in Ireland; but of late years their rule has been beneficent enough; and Fenianism, whatever else may have caused it, has certainly not been called into existence by bad government.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION IN THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

THE AFRICAN HORNBILL.

ALTHOUGH the Zoological Gardens have now been established for a period of nearly forty years, they still continue from time to time to be enriched by the receipt of rare and little-known animals. Several species but seldom hitherto brought to this country having recently been added to the collection.

Our present illustration is an example in point. The most remarkable in form among these birds is the curious hornbill from Abyssinia—*Bucconyx abyssinicus*, of Gmelin. This singular bird differs considerably from all other hornbills from the facility with which it walks on the ground. All the other known species of the group hop from tree to tree. This one, however, does not seem to do so, but is enabled by the great length and form of its legs to walk readily about. This habit, together with the size of the bird, the dark colour of its plumage, and the naked fleshy wattles upon its neck and throat, give it a strong resemblance to the common turkey-cock, which bird, as seen in its native haunts, might easily be confounded with it. By the length of its limbs the bird is enabled easily to hunt for and secure its prey, which consists principally of lizards, snakes, and such like creatures. There is a short, interesting account of some of the habits of this bird given in the "Ibis," vol. iii., p. 132, by J. H. Gurney, Esq., to which the reader is referred. On several occasions our present specimen has shown a remarkable fondness for snakes. These are thrown to it alive; the bird no sooner sees the snake than he seizes it with the point of the bill, and, with great force, dashes it against a tree in the aviary, thus stunning or paralyzing the reptile, so as to render it inactive. In this condition it is then swallowed, head foremost.

THE SCREAMING EAGLE.

The screaming eagle, *Aquila vocifer*, is a true fishing or sea eagle, very closely allied in all its characteristics to the *Haliastur indus*, the Brahmin kite of India. Its large size and remarkable voice are the chief differences. Its food is principally fish and aquatic reptiles, being rarely known to touch birds or mammals. Its voice, which is characteristic and from which its name is derived, although loud and shrill, is rather agreeable than otherwise, and the manner in which the birds signal and reply to each other is a cheering sound in the vast solitudes which they inhabit.

The female is said to be the largest, and her eggs are white, and bigger than that of a domestic fowl. These birds are found along the mouths of many of the great rivers on West Africa, from the Gambia to the Orange River.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

According to rumour, Oct. 14 next is to be a memorable day in France; decrees making important liberal concessions are to be issued, and a manifesto launched against the outrageous conduct of Prussia in the duchies question, which will be the more significant as Oct. 14 is the anniversary of the Battle of Jena.

A pamphlet published in reference to the Gastein Convention is creating some little sensation just now in Paris. It is believed or conjectured to have had its origin in one of the foreign Embassies. It seems to be a "feeler" in favour of an alliance with Prussia—an idea little calculated, one would think, to find favour in France just now.

ITALY.

The Minister of the Interior has addressed a circular to the Prefects relative to the approaching elections. The circular announces that shortly after the assembling of Parliament the Ministry will bring forward a measure for the suppression of religious bodies and the readjustment of ecclesiastical property. This measure will improve the position of the clergy in the country districts. In the division of the ecclesiastical wealth a portion will be assigned to elementary and middle-class education, and a portion to the communes where the religious bodies resided for works of public utility and for educational purposes. The Ministry will also bring forward bills for reforming the system of primary, secondary, and superior instruction. The deficit in the Budget for 1864 would amount to about 280,000,000*fr.* if an attempt were not made to reduce the expenses and increase the receipts. The Government will propose a modification of the tax upon incomes not derived from landed property. They will also continue the policy of assimilating the laws of the country, and will introduce bills for promoting the development of the national wealth and for the modification of the register stamp tax.

Senor Ulloa, the Spanish Ambassador, was formally received by King Victor Emmanuel at Florence, on Monday, when complimentary speeches were interchanged.

PORTUGAL.

It is reported that the King has postponed his visit to foreign countries in consequence of public opinion being opposed to his taking the Infanta with him.

The Oporto Exhibition, which was inaugurated by the King a few days ago, is considered successful.

AUSTRIA.

The Provincial Diets of the Austrian Empire have been summoned to meet on Nov. 23. The Hungarian Diet is summoned to meet on Dec. 10.

PRUSSIA.

The Prussian Government has issued a Royal proclamation announcing the assumption by the King of Prussia of the title of Duke of Lauenberg and the annexation of the duchy to his dominions. The proclamation promises that the King will carry on the government of the duchy in conformity with the existing laws.

Herr von Bismarck has been elevated to the rank of Count, and has received a visit of congratulation from the King.

SCHLESWIG AND HOLSTEIN.

A proclamation has been issued by Lieutenant-General von Manteuffel to the inhabitants of Schleswig upon assuming the government of the duchy. It says:—

"By the Gastein Convention you are transferred to a separate administration under the authority of the King of Prussia. Government by Prussia signifies justice, public order, and the advancement of the general prosperity. In assuming the government, I promise to regard your interests, and expect obedience to his Majesty's commands."

Herr von Zedlitz, the former Prussian Civil Commissioner in the duchies, has undertaken the civil administration, subject to the authority of General Manteuffel.

Field Marshal von Gablenz, the new Governor of Holstein, has issued a proclamation addressed to the inhabitants of the duchy. The Field Marshal expresses the hope that, as the representative of the Emperor of Austria, he would meet with the same kindness which had been shown by them to the Austrian troops. The proclamation then continues:—

"I rely with full confidence also on your manly character, which has already shown itself on former occasions, and on your sense of legality. This reliance facilitates the fulfilment of my mission, the difficulties of which I do not fail to understand. These difficulties can, however, be overcome by your quiet attitude and your real patriotism. I will maintain the autonomy of your Administration, which is so splendidly developed; and, above all, I will allow the native-born citizens of Holstein to share in the public management of the affairs of the duchy."

I promise you the conscientious application of the existing laws, the utmost possible advancement of your moral and material prosperity, energetic and rapid execution of the duties of Government, and the strict exercise of an impartial administration of the law. Holding aloof from the exercise of any decided policy, I am inspired solely by the desire of remaining a stranger to all party intrigues, of striving incessantly to develop the prosperity of the country, and, strengthened by the confidence of the population, of meeting the justly-founded wishes of the people."

HOLLAND.

The Dutch Chambers were opened on Monday.

The following are the most important points mentioned in the Speech from the Throne:—The relations with foreign Powers are stated to be friendly, and the condition of the colonial possessions generally favourable. The finances are prosperous, and the redemption of the public debt will be continued. The harvest, it is stated, is better than was expected. It is further announced that measures have been taken to arrest the progress of the dangerous epidemic prevailing among cattle, and, if necessary, the attention of the Chambers will be again directed to this subject.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York to the 9th instant.

The President had pardoned the Confederate ex-Governor Brown, of Georgia.

Mr. Jefferson Davis had recovered his health. A petition for his pardon had been submitted to President Johnson by the ladies of Hollysprings, Mississippi.

General Lee had been tendered and had accepted the presidency of Washington College, Lexington, Virginia. In his letter of acceptance he said it was the duty of every citizen in the present condition of the country to do all in his power to aid in the restoration of peace and harmony, and in no wise to oppose the policy of the State or general Government to that object, and it was particularly incumbent on those charged with the instruction of the young to set an example of submission to authority.

Provisional Governor Sharkey, of Mississippi, recently ordered the organization of two militia companies in each county in his State for the prevention of marauding by Federal deserters and returned Confederate soldiers. General Slocum had, however, countermanded the order, and directed all citizens possessing arms to forthwith surrender them to the military authorities. General Slocum, however, at the instance of the President, had countermanded his order prohibiting the organization of the militia in Mississippi. The authority of the Provisional Governor had also been disregarded by General Osterhaus, who lately removed a prisoner from the court-room in Jackson while he was being tried under civil process.

The Navy Department had dispatched a gun-boat to the Great Lakes, via St. Lawrence River.

Letters from Brownsville, Texas, state that an entertainment in honour of the Imperial Mexican Minister of the Interior was given at Brownsville on the 24th ult. Federal General Street proposed the health of the Emperor Maximilian.

Meetings of Fenians were being held in all parts of the Northern States. Large funds were also being collected, and either sent to Ireland or expended in the purchase of arms in America. Archbishop Kenrick, of St. Louis, has publicly forbidden the funeral of a Fenian brother with Fenian observances in St. Patrick's Church, in that city. He had also announced that the members of that brotherhood are not admissible to the Church sacraments, and that he regards the association as immoral and illegal in its objects, exciting rebellion in Ireland and tending to unsettle the relations between the United States and Great Britain.

THE GASTEIN CONVENTION.

CIRCULAR OF EARL RUSSELL.

THE *Independence Belge* publishes what professes to be the text of Earl Russell's despatch on the subject of the Gastein Convention. It is addressed to the diplomatic agents abroad, and is as follows:—

Sir,—The Prussian Charge d'Affaires has communicated to me in substance a despatch relative to the Gastein Convention, and since then the Berlin papers have published the text of that despatch.

On the first communication to her Majesty's Government of the preliminaries of peace, signed at Vienna, I caused the views of the Government respecting those preliminaries to be made known at Vienna and Berlin. The present convention has only served to increase the regret which the Government of her Majesty expressed at that time. The treaties of 1815 gave the King of Denmark a seat in the Germanic Confederation as Duke of Holstein. The Treaty of 1852 recognised the right of succession to the entire Danish monarchy which the late King had fixed in the person of the present Sovereign. This treaty, in despite of the assurances given in the despatches of Jan. 31, 1864, has been completely set aside by Austria and Prussia, two of the Powers which had signed it. It might justly have been expected that when treaties are thus annulled the popular sentiments of Germany, the wishes of the populations of the duchies, the opinion of the majority of the Diet so emphatically pressed by Austria and Prussia in the London Conference, would at least have been recognised in their stead. In this way, if one class of rights have been set aside, others flowing from the assent of the inhabitants might have been substituted for them, and these rights, received with respect, might have some chance of duration. But all rights, old or new, whether based upon a solemn agreement between Sovereigns or on the clear and precise expression of the popular will, have been trampled under foot by the Gastein Convention, and the authority of force is the only power which has been consulted and recognised. Violence and conquest are the only bases upon which the dividing Powers have established their convention. Her Majesty's Government greatly deprecates the disregard thus manifested for the principles of public law and the legitimate claim that a people may raise to be heard when their destiny is called into question. This despatch does not authorise you to address observations upon this subject to the Court to which you are accredited, and is solely intended to acquaint you in what sense you will speak or it when the occasion arises.—I am, &c. (Signed), RUSSELL.

Foreign Office, Sept. 14, 1865.

CIRCULAR OF M. DROUYN DE L'HUYS.

The *Augsburg Gazette* publishes in French the following document, which it gives as the authentic text of the circular addressed by M. Drouyn de Lhuys to the Diplomatic Agents of France, upon the subject of the Gastein Convention:—

Paris, Aug. 29.
Sir,—The newspapers have made us acquainted with the text of the Gastein Convention. I have no intention to examine its stipulations in detail, but it is not without interest to seek the objects which have guided the two great German Powers in these negotiations. Did they intend to consecrate the right of former treaties? Assuredly not; the Treaties of Vienna had settled the conditions of existence of the Danish monarchy. These conditions are upset. The Treaty of London was a fresh proof of the solicitude of Europe for the duration of the integrity of that monarchy; it is torn up by two Powers who had signed it. Have Austria and Prussia acted in concert for the defence of a disputed right of succession? Instead of restoring to the most authorised claimant the inheritance in dispute, they divide it between them. Do they consult the interest of Germany? No; their confederates only heard of the Gastein arrangement through the newspapers. Germany wanted an indivisible State of Schleswig-Holstein, separated from Denmark, and governed by a Prince whose pretensions it had espoused. This popular candidate is set aside, and the duchies, separated, instead of being united, pass under two different dominations. Have the two Powers wished to guarantee the interests of the duchies themselves? No; for the indissoluble union of the territories was, we are told, the essential condition of their prosperity. Was the object of the division, at all events, to disintegrate two rival nationalities and terminate their internal dissensions by ensuring to each an independent existence? By no means; for we see that the line of separation, taking no account of the distinction of races, leaves the Danes undistinguished from the Germans. Have the wishes of the people been studied? They have not been consulted in any way, and there is no hint even of assembling the Schleswig-Holstein Diet. Upon what principles, therefore, does the Austro-Prussian combination rest? We regret to find no other foundation for it than force, no other justification than the reciprocal convenience of the co-sharers. This is a mode of dealing to which the Europe of to-day has become unaccustomed, and precedents for it must be sought in the darkest ages of history. Violence and conquest pervert the notion of right and the conscience of nations. Substituted for the principles which govern the life of modern history, they are an element of trouble and dissolution, and can only overthrow the past without solidly building up anything new. Such, Sir, are the considerations that the events, of which Germany is just now the scene, suggest to the Emperor's Government. In communicating to you these impressions, my intention is not to request you to address any observations on the subject to the Court at which you are accredited, but merely to indicate to you the language you are to hold should any occasion arise for making known your opinion.—I am, &c., DROUYN DE L'HUYS.

ARRESTS OF FENIANS IN IRELAND.

THE most intense excitement was created in Dublin on Saturday morning by the intelligence that Government had at length taken action against the Fenian organisation in this country. It appears that not the slightest intimation of what was intended was given by the authorities even to the police who acted in the affair. They were called out at a moment's notice and dispatched at once to the office of the *Irish People* newspaper, in Parliament-street. This course it would appear, was decided on at a meeting of the Privy Council held at the Castle, and which sat up to a late hour on the previous evening. It was evident, from the completeness with which the affair was managed and the arrests made, that for some time past the conspirators who assembled there have been known to the police. At about nine o'clock on Friday night week a large force of the B division of police, accompanied by several of the G division of detectives, marched from the Castle to Parliament-street, which is very close by, and, possession of each end of the street having been taken, the detectives knocked at the door of the *People* office; but, although there were lights in the upper windows, no response was made. A party of constables was then sent to Crane-lane, at the rear, to see that no one left by that means, and the police then decided on forcing the door. This was done; and Superintendent Ryan and a number of men proceeded at once to the upper rooms of the house, where they arrested the following persons:—Mr. O'Donovan Rossa, the registered proprietor of the *Irish People*; Mr. Shaun O'Clancey, on the staff of the paper; Mr. James Murphy, who describes himself as a "citizen of Boston"; Thos. Ashe and Cornelius O'Mahony, reporters; Jas. O'Connor, book-keeper in the office; Mortimer Meenighan, Michael O'Neil Fogarty, William F. Roantree, and Pierce Nagle, also employed in the office.

On being arrested, Messrs. O'Donovan Rossa, O'Clancey, Murphy, Ashe, and O'Mahony were conveyed to Chancery-lane station-house, and the other prisoners to College-street station, where they were severally charged with having "feloniously and treasonably conspired and combined, with divers other evil-disposed persons belonging to a certain secret society called the Fenian Brotherhood, having for their object the levying of war in Ireland against the Queen, and separating it from the United Kingdom." They made no resistance and offered no protest, save Murphy, who stated that he was a citizen of the United States, and as such should not be interfered with. He said he would bring the fact of his having been illegally arrested before the attention of Mr. Seward, the American Secretary of State. The arrests were managed so quietly that but little excitement took place save in the immediate locality; but the police obliged the crowds to move on, and several persons said to be identified with the movement, who had hurried to the spot, or were proceeding thither on other business, were also taken into custody during the night. The prisoners were arrested under warrants signed by Mr. Stronge, chief magistrate, by direction of the Privy Council. The news of the entry of the police into the *People* office spread to some small extent through the city, and in a short time a large crowd assembled in Parliament-street. A number

of men of the B division, however, were promptly distributed through the street, who succeeded after some time in dispersing the crowd. When the prisoners were being conveyed to the police stations, escorted by strong bodies of police, they were followed by large numbers of persons. The seizure of the paper and the arrests were accomplished in a very short time and in the quietest possible manner. A body of police from the B division was placed in charge of the *Irish People* office, and remained there until after twelve o'clock, when the printing press, types, newspaper files, manuscripts, in fact everything found in the house, with the exception of a few articles of furniture, were placed on a dray and conveyed in charge of the police to the Castle-yard, where they were placed in safe keeping. Large numbers of the *Irish People* for Saturday had been printed off when the seizure was made, and the country edition of the paper, most probably, had been forwarded before that time. Orders had been issued to the police of the several divisions to remain in reserve, save those who were engaged in patrolling the streets to prevent the congregation of crowds. The military at the various barracks and the constabulary also received orders to be in immediate readiness if required. At half-past twelve, however, Parliament-street and its vicinity were as quiet as if nothing had happened.

An immense deal of correspondence, books, lists of subscribers to the Fenian organ, and other documents incidental to a newspaper office, have been secured. When three of the prisoners were being escorted to College-street police office two men, whose names are given above, and who were walking in the crowd which followed, were suddenly challenged by a detective, arrested, and marched off with the others.

On Saturday the excitement in Dublin was very great. The number of arrests was then ascertained to be about twenty-five. All the approaches to the head office, where it was expected the prisoners would be brought up, were crowded from an early hour by a dense mass of the very lowest class of society here, friends of the arrested or sympathisers in the movement. A force of mounted police maintained order and kept the thoroughfare comparatively clear. Other constables on foot endeavoured, with some success, to keep the crowds moving, but they could not be got to disperse. A large number of the more decently clad were evidently there from curiosity, but the substratum evinced the strongest sympathy with the prisoners. The movement itself, however, found a great many denouncers. Shortly after three o'clock the Government prison-vans, which had been occupying rather a prominent position at the entrance to Exchange-court, were disgorged of their contents—about twenty-five young men, for the most part respectably dressed, and several with an unmistakable Yankee cut and swagger in their appearance. Among the new arrests were a tailor named Hopper, who has a respectable shop in Dame-street; and a man named Rynd, inspector of fire-escapes, who wore the uniform of the Corporation Fire Brigade, in which he bore a good character. The following prisoners were brought up before Messrs. Stronge and M. Dermott, charged upon the information given by the police:—Thomas Clarke Luby, John O'Leary, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, George Hopper, James O'Connor, Mortimer Meenighan, Michael O'Neal Fogarty, William F. Roanthe, Pierce Naele, Maurice J. Magrath, Shaun O'Clancy, James Murphy, James Ashe, Cornelius O'Mahony, James Keeney, William Ryan, James Daniel O'Rourke, James Brennan, Michael O'Neill, Jeremiah O'Farrell, Joseph Haltigan, and James Rynd. The prisoners having answered to their names, Mr. Barry, Q.C., who was instructed by Mr. Anderson, Crown Solicitor, applied for a remand, on the ground that it was expected that further information would be obtained and more arrests made. No objection having been made, the application was granted, and the prisoners were remanded until that day week (to-day). The prisoners were removed in custody, and placed in the prison-van, a guard of mounted police accompanying the vehicle to the prison.

Simultaneously with the arrests in Dublin, or later in the night, a swoop was made on the Fenians in Cork, and about fifteen or twenty were arrested. Arrests have also been made in Wexford and other places.

ABUSE OF CHARITY FUNDS.

WE all remember the cry that was raised when Mr. Gladstone proposed to make charitable endowments liable to income tax, how it was called robbing the poor, and what piteous tales were told of the hardships which would follow if the State appropriated any of those sacred funds. A series of reports by the Charity Inspectors, which has just been published at the instance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, contains some curious information bearing on this question.

When Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham, died, in 1720, he left property, then worth £1312, to be applied to charitable objects. The specific payments directed by his will for the education and support of poor scholars, augmentation of poor livings, &c., amounted to about £1099. Out of the balance the trustees were to reimburse themselves for all the charges they should be put to in the execution of the trust, and to "make grants for any charitable purposes they should think fit." In the course of time this endowment has grown to be worth £9611, and the surplus at the disposal of the trustees is now not some £200, but £8512.

A subsequent bequest, which produces about £107 a year, was left by Dr. Sharpe, a Prebendary of Durham, and one of the original trustees for the repair of Bamborough Castle—an old ruin on the trust estate. Apartments were to be provided here for the Incumbent of Bamborough, the schoolmaster, sailors shipwrecked on the coast, and for the trustees on an occasional visit.

How is all this money expended? Less than half goes in charity. A statement of expenditure for ten years shows the following results:—Outgoings, charges, and agency (including repairs, &c.), £51,260 8s. 0d.; expended in charity, £47,656 18s. 5d.; excess of expenses over expenditure in charity, £3603 9s. 7d. The castle has become a stately building, "presenting an appearance of almost Royal magnificence." There are fourteen bed-rooms, a fine library, several handsome reception-rooms, spacious stables and coach-house. Clearly, such a place is not for shipwrecked sailors. When any appear at the castle-gates they are billeted, "at the expense of the trust," in the neighbouring public-houses. The clergyman and schoolmaster are also provided for outside the castle, which is reserved exclusively for the accommodation of the trustees. They take it by turns to reside there, each for six or seven weeks at a time. "They bring their families and receive their friends." No specific duties are prescribed for the resident trustees. It is supposed that they are there "to discharge the same duties as the owner of any property looked after by himself." What they actually do is to enjoy themselves and entertain the gentry of the neighbourhood and the better sort of farmers. The trustee in residence receives 10s. a day, with use of the produce of the gardens and farms. The *Guardian* newspaper is also taken in, to recruit his mind. If he would ride, there is a carriage and pair at his service. If he would bathe, there is "an excellent bathing-machine," the wheels of which contain 200lb. of copper. A flag waves from the tower when there is a trustee in residence, and the inspector is mean enough to suggest that "this notification is hardly of sufficient importance to justify an expenditure of £12 12s. per annum by the charity." It would of course be obviously unfair, as the trustees receive no salary for their onerous duties, that they should have to pay their travelling expenses out of their own pockets. Did not Bishop Crewe expressly say that all the charges they should be put to in the execution of the trust should be defrayed out of the bequest? So each trustee gets £12 12s. for the double journey. This allowance was raised to £15 15s. in the case of one trustee who lived at Oxford and had to pay £3 5s. in railway fares on each visit. A good staff of servants is maintained at the castle, and the managers of the estate—agents, solicitors, bailiffs, &c.—are all liberally remunerated.

The result is, as we have said, that less than half of Lord Crewe's bequest is spent in charity, and that the rest is swallowed up by the personal expenses of the trustees and of the "administration" generally. There are, we fear, too many cases where charitable funds are more or less misappropriated in this manner; but we can

hardly believe that a more flagrant case can be discovered in the country. Who, then, are these trustees who so literally interpret the maxim that charity begins at home? Worldly-minded men of business no doubt—merchants, manufacturers, and the like. Not at all. The five trustees must, by the terms of the foundation, be clergymen. The names of those now in office are—the Rev. W. N. Darnell, Rector of Stanhope; the Rev. H. G. Liddell, late Rector of Easington; the Rev. J. Dixon Clark, of Bedford; the Ven. Archdeacon Bland; the Rev. M. Pattison, Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford. We have stated these facts, culled from the bluebook, in the simplest possible manner. Comment is quite unnecessary. Five clergymen have nearly £10,000 to spend in charity, and less than half goes to charitable objects. What shall be said of the Levites who are not content to pass by "on the other side," but who combine to strip the needy and the helpless of the gifts which the good Samaritan has bestowed on them?—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

RIFLED ARTILLERY.

THE report of the Ordnance Select Committee which conducted the trial of the competitive guns rifled on three different systems contains the exact results of the experimental practice with each gun. Those results are noted so minutely in the tables appended to the text of the report that every detail of every shot fired can be referred to. As the trial has ranged over three years, it may be supposed that the tables and diagrams make up the greater portion of the volume.

The experiments to which the first part of the report refers were made with 7-inch wrought-iron guns, rifled on the French system, and the competing systems of Commander Scott, R.N., Mr. Lancaster, Mr. Jeffery, and Mr. Britten. On these weapons the committee make the following remarks:—

The difference between the systems of Messrs. Jeffery and Britten consisted substantially in the method of attaching lead to the base of the projectiles, and one gun only was prepared for these two gentlemen. The French gun was added at the request of the committee. The committee, warned by experience of the former competition, determined on this occasion to limit the trial strictly to the rifling of the guns, and they therefore endeavoured to eliminate all other sources of difference, and themselves fixed a uniform weight, and form, and windage of shot, and also the charges of powder. Mr. Lancaster's shot are slightly shorter than the others, because the committee had previously determined that the term "7-inch" gun should mean a gun down which a 7-inch spherical shot could be rolled, and under that definition the internal sectional area of an oval-bored gun must necessarily be larger than that of a grooved gun of the same nominal calibre. The committee would gladly have confined the competition to the same amount of twist, but it was clear that the expanding projectiles of Messrs. Jeffery and Britten would be unfairly treated if fired from a gun with as sharp a spiral as would suit the other competitors; and, moreover, the French system is that of an increasing twist, while that of the others is uniform. They therefore allowed each competitor full latitude in this respect.

The following paragraph gives a more detailed description of the guns:—

The guns are muzzle-loading. They have solid steel tubes 3 in. thick, a solid forged breech piece, and external strengthening coils. Their weight averages 149 cwt., and the length of bore is 10 ft. 6 in. Cammell's steel is used in Scott's, Lancaster's, and the Jeffery and Britten guns, and Fifth's steel in the other. They are vented 5.75 in. from the end of the bore, being the position to give the greatest initial velocity with a charge of 20 lb.

The shot used were solid, weighing 100 lb. and 110 lb. The powder used was A 4, and the cartridges were made up to a uniform diameter of six inches and five tenths. The charges varied in weight from 12 lb. to 25 lb.

The following are stated as the "general results" of the trial:—

Lead coated expanding projectiles.—A very short experience showed that the systems of Messrs. Jeffery and Britten were unsuited for heavy charges; large pieces of lead were blown off the shot, and the shooting was so wild as to throw these systems entirely out of the competition.

Endurance.—About 350 rounds have been fired from each gun. This is insufficient to test the endurance of guns such as these, but it is sufficient to indicate that, with steel-lined guns, there need be no fear of the breaking down of the grooving by the abrasion of the ribs or studs in either of these systems; at all events when in Commander Scott's system shot bearings are used. The committee can see no reason at present for placing one gun before the other in point of endurance.

Easiness of loading.—The French gun was certainly the easiest to load; but there is nothing to complain of in this respect in Commander Scott's gun. Mr. Lancaster's shot were all got home with more or less difficulty, and in some cases a metal rammer had to be used.

Liability of the projectiles to injury from rough usage.—None of these descriptions of shot are liable to injury from knocking about, but the Lancaster should take the first place in this respect; Commander Scott's first plan the second place; the French shot on Palliser's system the third; and Commander Scott's second plan the last.

Recoil.—There seems no practical difference between the guns in this respect. In the early part of the trial the Scott gun had the greatest recoil, but on an exchange of cartridges with the French gun their places in this respect were reversed.

There is no difference worth mentioning in the cost of rifling on these three systems. The report thus concludes:—

Commander Scott's gun has the advantage of both the others in point of range with round shot, but is very much inferior to both in uniformity of range and accuracy. It is worthy of remark that the charge of 20 lb., which is nearly half the shot's weight, gives an increase of velocity of only 271 ft., and only 200 yards, or thereabouts, of additional range, over the charge of 12 lb., which latter charge, with the small windage allowed, gives a considerably higher velocity than that of the service 32-pounder or 68-pounder shot. The committee have now placed the Secretary of State in possession of all the data that are requisite for comparing these five systems of rifling, as applicable to heavy battering-guns using a charge of one fifth or one fourth the weight of the shot. The gun rifled on the French system, with arrangement of the studs suggested by Major Palliser, gives by far the best result, so far, in point of accuracy, the trial not having proceeded beyond solid shot of the forms and weights specified. It was the easiest to load, and, although somewhat inferior to Commander Scott's gun in respect to firing round shot, is in every other respect equal or superior to it. The committee also prefer it to Lancaster's, although Mr. Lancaster has subsequently shown how, in his opinion, his shot may be made very easy to load without increase of mean windage, by taking the windage allowed chiefly off the third quadrant of the shot. The committee are confirmed in the preference expressed above by the superiority which the French system of rifling evinced over the former plans of the same gentleman when tried in rifled cast-iron 32-pounder guns in 1862. For reasons already given, they reject both the systems of lead-coated projectiles as unsuitable for heavy charges.

ANOTHER COLONIAL BISHOP.—Dr. Perry, of Melbourne has announced his intention of resigning his see.

A MAD FREAK.—At the Taunton Police Court, last week, William Stevens, cleaner of railway engines, was charged with wilfully causing damage to a railway engine to the extent of more than £100. The Chard and Taunton Railway is in course of construction, and is so far completed that engines can run over the rails. The duty of defendant was to clean an engine called the Busy Bee every evening after the work of the day, and at half-past three on the following morning to light the fire, so that steam could be got up by six o'clock and the labours of another day commenced. On no account was he to meddle with the machinery, or attempt to move the train, the driver laying on the fire and filling the boiler with a sufficient quantity of water. The cleaner, however, took a singular freak into his head, and determined to have a midnight ride, if possible. Accordingly, about midnight in the day named in the warrant, he lit the fire of the engine, got up the steam, and started the engine, he being the only passenger. Up and down the line he tore for two mortal hours, and not exactly knowing how to compress the steam, it flew off in all directions, shrieking fearfully and alarming the inhabitants living near the line of railway. The watchman on one of the bridges was sorely affrighted at seeing an engine tearing madly along, backwards and forwards, with a solitary white face upon it, and he came to the conclusion, in the darkness of the night, that either a ghost or the Evil One himself had obtained the mastery over the iron. In one of his excursions he was about to enter the main line of the Bristol and Exeter Railway, but he fortunately heard the noise of the approach of a night mail from London. A minute or two later and the consequences would have been fearful to contemplate, and the probable loss of life more horrifying still. At length, tired of his ride, he took the Busy Bee back to the station, and lay down by the side of it to await the arrival of the driver. At half-past four the driver approached the scene, but when about 100 yards from it the engine blew up with a fearful explosion, the cleaner having neglected to put more water into the boiler. The most remarkable part of the story remains to be told. The cleaner, though close to the engine, was uninjured, owing to lying down. He certainly was frightened, the driver asserting that when he came up to him his hair stood on end, "like quills upon the fretful porcupine." He was sentenced to a month's imprisonment, with hard labour.

THE CATTLE DISEASE.

MISS BURDETT COUTTS has written the following account of the ravages of the cattle disease in her herd of milch cows:—

Holly Lodge, Highgate, Sept. 8.

In the presence of so alarming a visitation one feels an amount of individual responsibility for all one does or leaves undone. I therefore do not scruple to lay before you the reasons which induce me to adhere to the opinion that the disease is the Russian murrain, brought in by imported cattle.

The conclusion as to the source of the disease, come to by a perfectly impartial person, who has been face to face with the disease, may not be without use; and it is needless for me to say that it is a matter of perfect indifference to me which of the three theories put forward may ultimately prove to be correct:—

1. The state of the cowsheds of London.
2. The state in which imported cattle are allowed to come into our market.
3. The Russian murrain.

Of the two first, allow me to say that it appears to me a disgrace to our legislation, and wholly at variance with our professed civilisation, not to say religion, that it should be possible even to advert to these as the most probable sources of this disease. But, whatever other diseases these sources may, by a retributive justice, give rise to among us, I cannot myself look upon them as those of this present plague. Possibly, a peculiar condition of the atmosphere may call into sudden action evil which has long lain dormant, and the cowsheds, cattle-vessels, and railway-trucks may, on this supposition, be connected with this outbreak of the evil; but it strikes me as singular that this evil should take the precise form of the rinderpest, when we consider that all the conditions of life and climate in England and the steppes of Russia are so wholly different. With the exception of the outbreak of 1745, England has not suffered from this disease, so well known in northern Europe. But I understand that, until lately, we have not imported cattle from Russia, and our immunity has been doubtless due to the precautions taken in Germany to prevent its ravages in that country. This year cattle have been imported direct from Russia, and I have been informed that about three months since an inquiry was made at the Islington market "as to whether there were any restrictions upon Russian cattle." The question implied a suspicion that such restrictions should exist, and suggested the reason for them. It is surely a singular coincidence that the sources of disease, always existing among us, should cease to lay dormant and burst forth into a Russian murrain simultaneously with an importation of cattle from that country, and should exist with the greatest virulence in the very market to which it is generally supposed the largest portion of the herd was sent. I am aware that it has been reported that Hull, where the animals were landed, has not been visited by the disease, and that it cannot be traced with certainty into the London market from the sale of this herd. But as it is also asserted that there are no means whereby English and foreign cattle can be distinguished in the market, I do not see how the absence of the animals can be affirmed with any certainty. The one fact remains uncontradicted, that a cargo came from Russia and is dispersed somewhere about the country. I do not, however, form my opinion as to the origin of our present distress upon this fact only; but I also find in Dr. Budd's report upon the rinderpest an explanation of many of the peculiar phenomena it has exhibited and for which we seek to account. I did not read, as I should not have understood, the purely medical portion of Dr. Budd's report; but I believe that, though the symptoms of the disease in England may have been modified by climate, water, food, and other influences, yet its course during its progress and at its close in death corresponds to the course of the disease as described in Dr. Budd's report. His account of the rinderpest is the more significant and valuable from the circumstance that it was written without reference to the existence in England of the disease now prevalent among our cattle, and that the similarity between the two diseases has not been ever, to my knowledge, denied. I therefore assume this to be the case, and I cannot but think Dr. Budd's observations offer a clue to much that perplexes us in the manifestation of this complaint. He states that those animals suffer most from the rinderpest who have never had it in their race; for instance, the young of animals who have gone through the disease take it more mildly and transmit the tendency to its influence in a modified form. He also observes that no animal takes it twice. In these two points it bears an analogy to diphtheria common among us, such as smallpox; and, as in these diseases there are exceptions found to rules otherwise general, so similar exceptions might possibly be found in the rinderpest; still the rule remains. Another important piece of information to be found in the report is this—that while sheep, dogs, and other animals are impervious to the disease, they can convey its poison. Now, it seems to me that these observations would account for the phenomena we have observed:—

1. The sudden breaking out of the disease in various parts of the country and under very different conditions.

2. The immunity of the animals of one shed and the virulence with which it attacks those of an adjoining shed.

3. The severity with which it has usually attacked English-bred cattle.

We could thus account for the circumstances observed in Hull. Of the 300 beasts landed, there is no reason to suppose that all were sick, and the healthy may have remained at Hull or in that neighbourhood, or all may have been sent away—the sick to carry pestilence, while the healthy no trace would be found. The infected cattle might herd with home-bred cattle peculiarly liable to take the disease, or with imported cattle less likely to take it for the reasons assigned by Dr. Budd; and possibly some of our own herds of home-bred cattle might take it less severely than others have been in their race, for we should bear in mind that we have had the disease in England in 1745, and that it then lasted fourteen years, notwithstanding the strongest measures taken by the King in Council to prevent it. Of course it would require long and patient investigation and observation to prove or disprove these suggestions. The same train of reasoning would also apply to the Dutch cattle imported from Holland, which have suffered cruelly. Most of them would be, like our home-bred cattle, peculiarly liable to the complaint. Holland is usually guarded, like ourselves, from its invasions by the precautions of Germany for its own safety. We know, however, that in 1857 the disease penetrated into Prussia. I do not know how far it was checked by the strict cordons kept to exclude it, or how far its influence extended; but during a time of war such cordons are not easily maintained, and some animals conveying the plague may have come to our shores either through Prussia or Holland, where the cattle have been said to be sickly, from some cause or another, for some time past.

My own conviction, that we have the rinderpest among us, is so decided that I venture earnestly to press upon your attention the urgent necessity for a systematic attempt to discover an effectual mode of treatment. We cannot altogether prevent importation, and when this panic has died out people will again become careless; and though I heartily hope that the system of bringing the poor creatures to market may be humanised, and the state of our cattle-sheds permanently amended, still, efficient inspection can never be relied on except under the pressure of danger; and the signs of the disease are so peculiarly subtle as to elude even careful and self-interested watching.

I might have said innocently, the day before its seizure, the worst case. I had in my dairy a cow with a calf I was particularly anxious to save, and which had remained apparently healthy throughout the previous fortnight, while the disease was at its height among the other cattle. Would it be impossible for the Government to select a certain number of chemists' shops as depôts, in different parts of the town (such as Savory and Moore, in Bond-street), where information as to the signs, especially of the early signs, of the disease could be procured, together with certain information as to the medicines and modes of treatment which had been found curative, or even which mitigated the form of the disease? It would be important to alleviate the sufferings the animals endure, and to render their bodies less dangerous when dead. I am about to set some inquiry on foot myself on these points. A few gentlemen kindly give me their help. May I hope for any assistance from Government in carrying out my project? There are several other very grave subjects on which information is greatly needed. Is the meat of diseased animals fit food for man or for animals in any stage of the disorder? I have heard of sickness lately in kennels. Can this be attributed to the meat given to the dogs? The milk also. Is it fit for use either during the attack or immediately after it? Some of my cows gave milk after doses of bisulphate of soda. I did not allow it to be used, but it could scarcely be expected that others should do this whose livelihood depended upon their supply of milk; and if unnecessary to be done, the waste would be equally to be deplored.

On the recovery of the only cow saved out of my herd of twenty, the milk was given to some pigs. They rejected it at first, and after taking it sickened slightly. I forbade its use for a week. Surely it is a point of great importance to the public health, and should be ascertained, and inspectors should have the power of certifying that an animal is or is not in a fit state to be milked.

At present no one knows where to turn for any advice, and it seems to me, and I believe I may add that I represent the opinions of many, that upon such an occasion as the present our Government should take the lead in guiding us how to act, and in assisting us to meet an emergency which is full of difficulty and danger to all classes. According to the account of the murrain, drawn up in 1745, the spring months proved the most severe, whilst it slumbered in winter. We must not, therefore, reckon upon its ceasing with the year; nor should we forget that we have not the cold which in Russia, I presume, checks the infection, and the absence of which accounts for the still greater severity with which it is said that the disease has visited Egypt, which is afflicted with this as well as with cholera.

LIGHTING RAILWAY CARRIAGES WITH GAS.—The directors of the South-Eastern Railway Company have been occupied during the last few days in making experiments with respect to gaslights in carriages. A simple method introduced by Mr. Dalziel on trial, and, should it answer, every carriage will carry its own supply of gas for a reasonably long journey. Experiments have also recently been made, and were resumed on Saturday last, on the Great Northern Railway, with the view of consuming the smoke from the engines and of making gas for lighting carriages as the trains travel.



THE PARISIAN LEMONADE-SELLER IN SEPTEMBER.—(FROM A DESIGN BY GAVARNI.)

THE LEMONADE MERCHANT.

We have been complaining loudly enough of the hot weather in London; but, if we may judge from the reports of "our own correspondents" in Paris, the temperature of that city has been altogether unbearable, and would have been really serious but for the few mitigating circumstances of which the people were able to avail themselves. From those tall, white houses in the great thoroughfares, where the light and heat are reflected upon the pavement with

blinding effect—on asphalt pavement, to which the feet of passengers stick, and where one may trace the footprints of the flâneur indented in the sinking causeway—how grateful must be the escape even to the scorched and withered foliage and grass of the Bois de Boulogne! Away from the broad, unshaded quays, or the long, dusty streets, that seem to stretch themselves under the fierce glare of the mid-day sky, there are cooler and more humid cafés, where an awning, a marble table, and a straw chair are sufficient preparation

for the consumption of a whole caraffe of ice-water and a solid lump of vanilla. The fountains are all tepid, the jets d'eau fairly steam, and even the reflection on the bright pewter jugs and the polished metal counter of the wineshops is too suggestive of heat to satisfy the craving for a refreshing draught. The hundreds of English visitors must have noticed how the workmen and workwomen of the French capital quench their thirst when their finances will afford the extravagance of two sous; and though



THE FRENCH IN MEXICO: DEATH OF PUERTICA AT UROFAN.

few even among that batch of excursionists irreverently known as "Cook's lot" have been induced to try the virtue either of "coco" or "limonade," most of them have listened to the sonorous cry of the "marchand," have regarded with a sort of curious wonder his odd, knowing-looking face, the wonderful reservoir on his shoulder, and the bright flashing cups of glass or metal, which are held in the slits in the strap that crosses his manly chest.

His very cry is suggestive of cool draughts, and it has about it a soothing influence which well accords with the arid but peaceful calm of a mellow autumn evening, especially when we meet him in some shady by-way where we can bespeak his friendly aid, and receive from his hand a goblet with fresh drink purling and beading at its brim. And all for two sous! No wonder that the lemonade merchant, who is also a dealer in "coco," should have survived dynasties and revolutions, and should remain as one of the unaltered, if not unalterable, types of Paris life.

THE BATTLE OF URUOPAN, AND THE DEATH OF PUEBLITA.

OUR Engraving represents one of the most recent engagements between the French troops and the Mexican insurgents at Uruopan, one of the towns in the interior, which lately fell again into the power of the Juaristas. These places have been, one by one, retaken from the irregular forces, which had seized them during the time they were necessarily left unprotected for the concentration of the main army. The indefatigable Colonel Clinchant, who had been entrusted with this task, entered Uruopan so unexpectedly that a band of guerrilleros, commanded by the notorious Pueblita, was entering on the other side of the town at the same moment, totally ignorant of the approach of the enemy. The hardy chief of the band perceived the advancing column of the French too late, and expected to find his colleague, Arteaga, within the place. Hope of escape was vain; and, though he was well mounted on a powerful horse, he and his band were surrounded in a moment and cut off by a brilliant charge from the soldiers, whose sabres avenged the misdeeds of a life of pillage and rapine.

Arteaga had already abandoned his wounded and prisoners in Uruopan, in order that his flight might not be impeded; and, after having gathered these together, Colonel Clinchant set out the next day in company with the Belgian Colonel Vandersmissen. The principal towns were afterwards occupied by the French, and the insurgents were thus forced to retreat to the hotter regions of the surrounding country.

It is said that Arteaga is reduced to mounting his men on mules stolen from the haciendas, and that his band is being seriously diminished by sickness and desertion.

It is rumoured, via Denver city, U.S., that the French have occupied Chihuahua. Juarez fled, and had established his headquarters at El Paso. It was supposed that he would soon be driven into Federal territory.

WHO WERE THE FENIANS?

IRISH tradition says that the Fenians were an ancient militia, or standing army, employed only on home service for protecting the coasts from invasion. Each of the four provinces, says the tradition, had its band; that of Leinster, to which Fionn and his family belonged, being called the Clanna Baoisne. This militia is said to have been paid by the King, billeted on the people in the winter, but to have lived in the summer by the chase; and these are supposed to have been the qualifications of a Fenian:—"Every soldier was required to swear—that, without regard to her fortune, he would choose a wife for her virtue, her courtesy, and her good manners; that he would never offer violence to a woman; that as far as he could he would relieve the poor; and that he would not refuse to fight nine men of any other nation. No person could be received into the service unless his father and mother and all his relatives gave security that none of them should revenge his death upon the person who might slay him, but that they would leave the matter to his fellow-soldiers. The youth himself must be well acquainted with the twelve books of poetry, and be able to compose verses. He must be a perfect master of defence. To prove this, he was placed in a field of sedge reaching up to his knees, having in his hands a target and a hazel-stick as long as a man's arm. Nine experienced soldiers, from a distance of nine ridges of sand, were to hurt their spears at him at once; if he was unhurt he was admitted, but if wounded he was sent off with a reproach. He must also run well and defend himself when in flight. To try his activity he was made to run through a wood, having a start of a tree's breadth, the whole of the Fenians pursuing him; if he was overtaken or wounded in the wood he was refused, as too sluggish and unskilful to fight with honour among such valiant troops. Also, he must have a strong arm, and be able to hold his weapon steadily. Also, when he ran through a wood in chase his hair should not come untied; if it did, he was rejected. He must be so swift and light of foot as not to break a rotten stick by standing upon it; able also to leap over a tree as high as his forehead, and to stoop under a tree that was lower than his knees. Without stopping or lessening his speed, he must be able to draw a thorn out of his foot. Finally, he must take an oath of fidelity. The Rev. Geoffrey Keating, who wrote a history of Erin in the year 1630, gravely says, "So long as these terms of admission were exactly insisted upon the militia of Ireland were an invincible defence to their country and a terror to rebels at home and enemies abroad." Goll MacMorna had slain Fionn's father Cumhall in battle, and was Fionn's mortal enemy in early life. Afterwards he made a peace with him, and fought under him as chieftain of the Connaught Fenians. But the supremacy of the Clanna Baoisne led to feuds, and at last Fionn and his clan, defying the throne itself, were attacked by all the forces of Erin except those of the King of Munster, who took part with him, and suffered carnage in that battle of Gabhra wherein Oisín's son Oscar and the King Cairbré fell by each other's hands. Fionn, who was absent, arrived only in time to close his grandson's eyes, and after this defeat peace had no sweets for him and war no triumphs. Fionn died at last, it is said, by the lance of an assassin. It is noticeable however, that the Fenians were not confined to Erin. In the ancient poem on the battle of Gabhra we read of "the bands of the Fians of Alban"—Alban being the old name of Scotland north of the Firth of Forth and Clyde, and the supreme King of Breatain—Breatain being southern Scotland, of which Dunbarton, now Dunbarton, was the chief seat, "belonging to the order of Fenians of Alban"; and also that "the Fians of Lochlan were powerful." Now Lochlan was an ancient name for Germany north of the Rhine; but when the Norwegian and Danish pirates appeared in the ninth century they were called Lochlanels, and the name of Lochlan was transferred to Norway and Denmark. It has been argued from this that the Fenians were not a militia of Gael, but that they were a distinct Celtic race, connected with the only two races who are spoken of as having come in oldest time from Lochlan—namely, the Thraetha dé Danann and the Cruithne. These are thought to have been some of the Celts who preceded the Germanic peoples now occupying the north German shore and Scandinavia.—*Morley's "Writers before Chaucer."*

FENIAN SONG.—The following is a specimen of the sort of effusions in which the Fenian Brotherhood delight. This song is said to have been sung extensively in Ireland lately:—

THE GREEN FLAG FLYING OVER US.
Prepare, prepare, with silent care,
And trust to words no longer;
We had enough of such false stuff;
And find we are not the stronger.
Those mountebanks who fill the ranks
By lying all in thorns,
Of thin beware, and still prepare,
With the green flag flying over us.
In days of yore, when talkers bore
A sword like min of valor,
From every fight the led the light
With base and coward trailer.
Such worthless men, by voice and pen,
With—cursed and torn us;
We'll strike them down with life and drum,
With the green flag flying over us.

HAYLING ISLAND NEW LIFE-BEAT.—The National Life-boat Institution has just forwarded a fine new life-boat and transporting-carriage to Hayling Island, near Portsmouth. It will probably be remembered that a wreck occurred near that place in January last, during a fearful gale of wind, when Major F. W. Festing, R.A., and twelve of the Hayling fishermen, incurred great risk of life in putting off in an open boat and rescuing three out of five of the crew of the unfortunate vessel. The life-boat now sent to Hayling by the Institution is 31 ft. long and 7 ft. wide, and rows ten oars, double-banked. Her self-righting and other qualities were fully and satisfactorily tested a few days ago in the Regent's Canal Dock. The cost—amounting to £550—of this life-boat establishment was magnificently presented to the Institution by Messrs. Leaf, Sons, and Co., and the boat is named the Olive Leaf. A free conveyance was readily given to the life-boat and carriage between London and Havant by the London and South-Western Railway Company. A public demonstration and launch of the life-boat took place on her arrival at Hayling, on the 13th inst., the Bishop of Chichester kindly officiating at the consecration and naming of the boat.

Will be published, September 30, price One Shilling, beautifully printed in Colours.

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DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

THE Parliamentary recess has valuable uses. We then get certain classes of subjects discussed which receive but a small share of attention while the columns of the newspapers are filled with ponderous reports of speeches in Parliament—themselves often rather ponderous affairs. Social questions are, after all, quite as important as politics; but, being less intrusive, are generally "shunted" aside during the Session. During the recess, however, they come again "on the line," and receive the attention to which they are entitled. Among the social matters at present occupying attention, none is of more importance than that of domestic servants and their relations with their employers, especially the mistresses. It is an old difficulty, that of finding a good servant. Years ago the Messrs. Mayhew called it "the greatest plague of life." The plague does not seem to be at all abated. Indeed, if we may judge from the letters which have been appearing lately in the columns of some of our daily contemporaries, the evil is becoming greater every day. Nor are the complaints confined to one side. The servants have grievances as well as the mistresses. The employers complain that their servants are lazy, careless, inattentive to orders, insolent, and given to over-dressing. The employées, on the other hand, assert that the mistresses are exacting, over-bearing, tyrannical, stingy, unsympathising, and somewhat jealous of the smart appearance their domestics make when they get their "Sunday out." In short, the one class raises a cry against bad servants; the other against bad mistresses. We dare say there is truth in both complaints. Bad mistresses will infallibly make bad servants; and bad servants cannot well expect good mistresses. But are matters worse now than they were formerly? And, if so, why so? The first query must, we suppose, be answered in the affirmative; for everybody says so. Mr. Ruskin, to be sure, who has condescended to take part in the controversy, declares that he never fails to get good service in return for kind treatment. But Mr. Ruskin is an exceptional man; and his experience, therefore, may not be a fair rule by which to judge others. Still, there must be a great deal of truth in the principle he maintains—that kindness, justice, and consideration usually beget attachment, zeal, and diligence. The complaints as to defective service, however, are so general that we are forced to one—or both—of two conclusions: either that mistresses are lacking in the qualities Mr. Ruskin mentions, or that he has better luck than his neighbours.

For our part, we believe that there are grave faults on both sides, and that false notions of education are at the bottom of the mischief. We are all far too genteel in these days. Young ladies who are likely to occupy the position of mistresses are engaged all their unmarried lives in acquiring elegant accomplishments, and give little or no heed to domestic affairs. They do not study the details of housekeeping, and never think of learning how to treat and manage subordinates till they find themselves at the head of an establishment, and then, when matters go wrong, they blame the servants for the results of their own lack of skill. If wealthy parents would condescend to teach their daughters a little knowledge of "common things," instead of devoting their attention exclusively to the ornamental part of education; if they would take them into the kitchen occasionally and initiate them into the mysteries of domestic management, instead of letting them dawdle all day over their toilets or at the piano in the drawing-room; if, in short, they would aim less at making "ladies" of their daughters, and more at training them as useful women, there would be more good wives and good mistresses in the world.

Ambition, again, is the bane of the classes whose children must serve in some capacity. Respectable mechanics, small tradesmen, and farmers—the ranks in life from which the best domestic servants ought to come—deem it degrading for their daughters to go into service. They are therefore educated for governesses, or are apprenticed to the millinery and dress-

making, or go out as shop-girls. None of these occupations qualifies a girl for domestic service should she fail, as large numbers of them must fail, in the special vocation for which she has been trained. The result is that there are far too many milliners and dressmakers, far too many governesses, far too many shop-girls, and far too few domestic servants, and those drawn from the lowest and least likely sources. The governesses, the milliners, and dressmakers, being too numerous in proportion to the demand for their services, starve, or eke out a miserable existence on inadequate earnings; while the domestic servants, being too few for the wants of society, become proud, haughty, indifferent, and insolent.

The result, it seems to us, is the inevitable consequence of the violation of natural and social laws on both sides. Let young ladies learn the duties of housekeeping and the art of ruling before they become mistresses; and let respectable men's daughters be content with the substantial comforts of domestic service rather than strive after the specious but fallacious elegances of professional occupations. As a general rule, domestic servants are better lodged, better fed, and more comfortable than needlewomen are; and, if they have less liberty, they are exposed to less temptation. Then why should the position of a servant be scorned, and that of a needlewoman coveted? Simply because the one is supposed to be more genteel than the other. False pride, false ambition, and defective education, are the sources of the evil of which we hear so many complaints. Let these be cured, and the mischief will be rectified.

THE LATE MR. COBDEN ON THE AMERICAN WAR AND MEXICO.

THE following is an extract from a letter written in May, 1864, by the late Richard Cobden, on America, to a French gentleman residing in Switzerland, upon the subject of the late rebellion:—

LONDON, May 13, 1864.

My dear —,—In your last letter you speak unfavourably of the prospects of the Northern party in America. You do not know that country. I travelled through the United States in 1855, and again in 1859, and have been a very careful student of all that has been passing there. I ought to know that country as well as anybody. Nothing in my mind is more certain in the future than that the North will destroy slavery, ruin the slaveowners, and hold possession of the South. The mistake that people fall into in Europe when they expect the success of the South is that they lose sight of the inherent weakness of a slave-owning community, owing to the want of that mechanical development which constitutes the great power of modern society as compared with former ages. Georgia, or Mississippi, or Alabama, are not modern communities in their organisation and resources. They are a succession of plantations on which slaves do all the work, and containing within themselves all the different occupations, such as carpenters, smiths, and coopers, and which form distinct trades in free civilised States. In fact, Georgia and Mississippi are in the same state as Western Europe was in the fourteenth century. Georgia and Mississippi, each nearly as large as England, contain each only 500,000 of white inhabitants, being less populous than England was in the time of the Saxons. Those whites are surrounded by nearly an equal number of slaves, who are ready to run away from their masters whenever the Federal armies approach. Thus, added to the want of mechanical resources and the absence of accumulated wealth and population in towns, the South sees the negro, on whom it depends for the rude cultivation of the soil, deserting its plantations to enlist in the ranks of the invading army. It is true that the Southern whites fight well. They are a proud, haughty community, who have a contempt for Northern industry and for Northern men, just as all aristocrats have despised working men. They are more reckless of life, more accustomed to the use of arms, and have that Southern dash and fire which make them almost irresistible for a time. But nothing can compensate for the disadvantages under which they labour. Nothing can make a community living like the feudal community of the thirteenth century a match for the New England population of the nineteenth century. The North will ruin the South, not by any one or half-dozen decisive battles, but by its persistence, and by the irresistible weight of its resources. And I should not be surprised to see the South collapse very suddenly; for, having no social forces at its back, when once it is fairly beaten in the field it has nothing to fall back upon. If the North should realise my expectations, it will present itself before the Old World in a new and most formidable attitude, for it will have proved itself as great in war as in peace. It is the only country in the world which, while it is a first-class naval Power (for its mercantile tonnage is equal to our own), can keep 700,000 men in the field. Has your Emperor thought of all this in connection with his Mexican expedition? I confess I saw with amazement, as well as regret, the course which he took in sending an army to interfere in the internal affairs of that wretched country. It reminded me, in the impolicy, of the expedition of the first Napoleon from Bayonne into Spain. No human being can restore ex-ico to order, or confer on it the blessings of civilised progress. It requires the hand of God himself to effect such a change in that degraded population of half-castes. But does the Emperor know how deeply the public sentiment of the United States is outraged and humiliated by this attempt of a foreign Power to set up an empire at their door without consultation with them? How would you Frenchmen like to see the Yankees sending an army to establish a republic in Belgium without consulting you? Seeing the American newspapers regularly, I gather from them that the resentment against you for the Mexican intervention is ready to burst forth the moment the rebellion is in a sure way of defeat. The Americans will have some serious controversies with England, but they are of a nature to keep and employ the ingenuity of diplomatists. But I look for a peremptory demand from Washington for explanations from the Tuilleries, which will lead to war or humiliation. I sincerely wish the Emperor would withdraw every French soldier immediately.

RICHARD COBDEN.

THAMES BRIDGES.—In speaking of the bridges over the Thames, in our last week's Number, we remarked that, so far as we were aware, Putney Bridge was the only wooden fabric now left on the river. In this we were mistaken, a friend having called our attention to the fact that old Battersea Bridge, a wooden erection, is still standing. With the exception of these two, however, we are not aware of any other wooden bridges left on the stream—lower down than Hampton, at least.

BRUTAL CONDUCT OF A SOMERSET FARMER.—A farmer named William Fletcher appeared before the county magistrates at Bath, on Saturday last, charged with assaulting two young ladies, named Emily Martha Read and Mary Louise Perrin, pupils at Mrs. Pearson's school, Bath. The defendant pleaded guilty to both charges; but the Bench heard the evidence of the complainants and a schoolfellow, who was also struck, and the governess who was with them at the time of the assault. The facts were briefly these:—On Friday, the 8th inst., in the evening, the young ladies of the school took a walk to Weston, near Bath, and unfortunately happened to enter defendant's field. Attracted by the backberries, they left the path and went towards the hedge. They had hardly got there when defendant made his appearance, having a stick in his hand. He accosted the governess (Miss Moore) with foul language. She told him if they were trespassing they would leave; but with some contemptuous observation he struck at her, but she evaded the blow and ran away. The other young ladies were not so fortunate; most of them received blows from defendant's stick, and as he was in a passion it may be easily imagined that they were roughly handled. The screams and fright of the girls would have moved the feeling of any one; but the defendant was not satisfied till they had all escaped over the stile. Mr. Field, surgeon, on examining Miss Perrin, found unmistakable evidences of several very heavy blows on the right shoulder blade; two marks were especially prominent, as if struck with a thick stick; there was considerable swelling and tenderness on pressure; there was also a sort of half scratch as from a rough stick. On Miss Read he found the mark of a severe blow at the nape of the neck—a bruise and regular scratch as large as a crownpiece. Defendant did not attempt to deny the offences, but excused himself by saying that a lot of his ricks narrowly escaped being burnt, some children having got in and lit a fire in the field. The Bench indignantly repudiated the idea that he could have imagined the young ladies intended setting fire to his hay. He was fined 40s. and costs in each case—the costs to include a guinea to the solicitor of the complainants and a like sum to the surgeon; in default of a month's imprisonment in each case. Defendant, who paid the money with reluctance, treated the case with indifference. While the Bench were consulting he expressed his determination to summon the young ladies for trespassing, but the clerk told him that he could not do so unless he could prove damage.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

PRINCE AMADEUS of Italy is at present in this country on a visit to the Royal family.

EARL GRANVILLE is engaged to marry Miss Castella Campbell, sister of Mr. Walter Campbell, of Islay.

MR. GLADSTONE has been requested to act on the Paris Exhibition Committee of 1867, in place of Mr. Cobden.

M. THIERS is about to publish a history of Florence.

GENERAL LANGIEWICZ, the Dictator of Poland during the last insurrection, is at present in London.

TWO FRENCH BISHOPS—those of Marseilles and Vannes—have lately become insane.

MR. WESTLEY RICHARDS, the eminent gunmaker of Birmingham, died a few days ago, in his seventy-sixth year.

ERNEST ROSSI, a distinguished Florentine actor, is about to perform in Paris. He will then, it is understood, come to London, and play in Italian versions of some of the tragedies of Shakespeare.

A BILL FOR THE ANNEXATION OF KAFFRARIA TO THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE has passed the Colonial House of Assembly.

THE FAMOUS ST. GILES'S-HILL CHEESE AND HORSE FAIR, near Winchester, which has been held annually in September for 700 years, will cease to be held after the present year.

CHOLERA is said to have made its appearance in the neighbourhood of Seville, and to have excited great alarm among the inhabitants.

THE REV. MR. MATHEWS, the Protestant Rector of Cappawhite, Tipperary, who died recently, has bequeathed his property to the Roman Catholic priest of the parish.

NADAR was to have made an ascent in his balloon at Amsterdam on Sunday, but the authorities prohibited him from desecrating the Sabbath.

MOQUITOES, of a true West Indian type, have made their appearance at Woolstone, in Hants. A young lady there was stung by them in the arms, which swelled up to an immense size in consequence.

M. DROUYN DE LUYVS has written to the Mayor of Strasburg announcing that he has received a promise from the Prussian Government that "no personal considerations" shall be allowed to interfere in the judicial proceedings called for by the death of Ott.

GENERAL FREMONT, at the head of a company of Eastern capitalists, is about to embark in the business of manufacturing railroad iron. The company has purchased extensive tracts of mineral land in Missouri.

A CHILD, says an American paper, was born recently in San Francisco, who had no eyes. Cuts were made, and a pair of bright ones found underneath the skin.

A MAN NAMED LOWRY, whilst intoxicated, undertook for a wager to swim across a reservoir at Rochdale; he was a good swimmer, but on reaching half-way across he sank, and was drowned.

M. ROGEARD, author of the "Propos de Labienus," has been expelled from Belgium.

MR. H. J. PURKISS, B.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, the senior wrangler of 1864, lost his life while bathing in the Cam on Sunday afternoon.

A CONTRACT has been signed between the United States Postmaster-General and the Pacific Mail Steamship Company to carry mails monthly between San Francisco and Hong-Kong, China, touching at the Sandwich Islands.

A LAD NAMED GEORGE MATTHEWS, residing in Birmingham, was seriously injured by his rather throwing a pair of scissors at him in a fit of passion a few days since, and on Sunday he died in the hospital.

A THREATENING LETTER of a violent character has been addressed to Herr von Bismarck by a political enthusiast signing himself "Rudolph, President of the Iron Bond." It is dated from Frankfurt-on-the-Maine.

A NEW CLERICAL JOURNAL, the *Catholique*, is about to be founded in Brussels, under the direction of M. Vuilleul. The *Opinion Nationale* states that of the capital required Mgr. de Mérode contributes 50,000*fr.*, Mgr. Dupanloup, 30,000*fr.*; and M. Keller, 100,000*fr.*

THE FUNERAL OF MME. KOSSUTH, which took place at Genoa, was attended by the most distinguished persons in the town. It was preceded by an imposing funeral service; and in the churchyard of San Benigno, where the body was buried, the British Consul and the whole of the staff were present. The address at the burial was delivered by an English clergyman.

THE FOUNDATION-STONE of a new convalescent hospital was laid at Bournemouth on Saturday last. The hospital is intended as a memorial of the late Lord Herbert of Lea. The stone was laid by his son, the Earl of Pembroke, who delivered a brief but touching address on the occasion.

THE PORTE has appointed a sanitary commission, composed of Turkish physicians, to introduce modifications in the religious practices of the pilgrims of Mecca, so as to prevent a repetition of the outbreak of cholera which took place among them this year, and at the same time to adhere to the principles of the Koran.

THE VILLAGE OF NEUCHÂTEL, Switzerland, was almost entirely destroyed by fire on the night of the 12th inst. Out of 123 houses only nineteen remain. The fire originated in a house occupied by the captain of the firemen, and there is too much reason to think that it was caused by an incendiary.

THE ADMIRALTY have adopted the sensible plan of paying off several of her Majesty's ships stationed at Hong-Kong, and recommissioning them on the spot. This step is decidedly an improvement on the old plan of ordering ships home at the expiration of their ordinary term of commission, and putting them to pieces even when they were in a state of thorough efficiency.

A LITTLE GIRL, named Sarah Ann Young, went with her mother to the church of St. George's-in-the-East—the mother intending to be churched. When the clergyman entered in his surplice the little girl screamed with fright. She was removed from the church, but never recovered, and died shortly afterwards.

THE MINERS at all the principal collieries at Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, and neighbourhood, turned out on Saturday and Monday last for an advance of 2*d.* in the shilling. The proprietors of the Lineturst pits have acceded to the demands of the workmen, but the Astley deep pit and most of the others are at present at a standstill.

A WEALTHY OLD MAN, who died at Stratford recently, in letting his house always insisted on the following conditions:—1. There must be no children; 2. The tenant must not smoke; 3. Nor keep birds; 4. Nor exhibit flowers in pots or otherwise in any or either of the windows of the house; 5. If a bachelor, or widow, or spinster, he or she must not enter into matrimony during his or her tenancy.

THE "HUMMUMS," in Covent-garden, so well known as the resort of literary and political celebrities of past generations, is doomed to destruction; the old house, like many others in the metropolis, being demanded as a sacrifice to "metropolitan improvements." The lease, it appears, has expired, and the Duke of Bedford will not renew it, as he thinks it will be better to extend Covent-garden Market in consequence of the rapid increase of its trade.

THE REV. ROBERT YOUNG, of Auchterarder, who was the innocent author of the disruption of the Church of Scotland, died last week. Mr. Young's presentation to Auchterarder, in 1839, being opposed, gave rise to the famous Auchterarder case, which, carried through all the courts, was decided finally in the House of Lords, in August, 1842, in his favour, and was followed by the great secession, of which Dr. Chalmers was the leader, and which resulted in the organisation of the Free Church.

A STORY IS CURRENT AT FLORENCE that General Della Marmora—encouraged, perhaps, by the Gastein transaction and by the indemnity accepted by the Austrian Crown for its interest in Lauenburg—either has sent, or is on the point of sending, serious proposals to the Vienna Government with respect to the cession of Venetia against a sum of money. In the same quarter in which this statement obtains credit it is also said that this attempt at a "transaction" is to be supported by the good offices and urgent friendly representations of the English and French Governments.

MR. BRIGHT, M.P., ON REFORM.—The following letter has been received by Mr. George Newton, of Glasgow, from Mr. Bright, M.P., in reply to an invitation to attend a meeting in that city for the agitation of the question of Parliamentary Reform:—"Dear Sir,—Mr. Dalglish has forwarded your letter to me. I thank you for your invitation, although I do not feel myself able now to accept it. If I come to Glasgow I must go to other places. I cannot bear the weight of an agitation for Reform, and spend the winter in attending great meetings, as I did in the year 1858-9; and therefore I feel compelled to shun engagements which I know I should find too heavy for me. I have as much interest in the question as I have had at any time, and I believe, and indeed I know, that it is advancing with most certain steps. When the present Prime Minister leaves office no Ministry will be possible of the Liberal party which will not deal with the Reform question. I am not anxious that it should be dealt with during his official life, for he is the only man connected with the Liberal party who is at once both able and willing to betray it. One sentence from his lips would have passed the bill of 1860, and that sentence he refused to utter. His colleagues preferred their places to their honour as public men, and they consented to the greatest political fraud of our times rather than leave the Treasury bench even for a season. Happily, the question does not depend on the Prime Minister. He has never promoted its growth, and he cannot prevent its success. There is at work a steady and a silent force which all who are not blind may mark, and every day's delay will add to the certainty and fulness of our triumph. I hope every Liberal constituency will so act through its representative as to make a sham Liberal Government henceforth impossible. For what can be more degrading to a Liberal member of the House of Commons than to sit as a supporter of an Administration which repudiates and has betrayed the first and greatest question or cause upon which the whole policy of the Liberal party is founded?"

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

A FRIEND sends me from Dublin a copy of the suppressed number of the journal, *The Irish People*, which stimulated the Government to such energetic measures. It is a very poor affair. The number is 43, sold for twopenny, and contains sixteen folio pages. The only really treatable bit I can discover is the following passage in a leader:—"The people for whom God created it must get this island into their own hands. If they do not, the Irish nation must disappear from the face of the earth. Our beautiful and fruitful land will become a grazing-farm for the foreigner's cattle, and the remnant of our race wanderers and outcasts all over the world if English rule in Ireland be not struck down. Our only hope is in revolution." This article is headed "Priests in Politics," and is a reprehension of the conduct of the priests, who, it appears, not only do not encourage, but in many cases openly condemn, the "Fenian" movement. The rest of the paper is mainly a selection of paragraphs from other papers, and original correspondence in reference to Fenianism. There is, however, one article which, professedly historical, describes the use of the pike and its advantages against cavalry. But the writer is evidently unacquainted with the change which the Enfield rifle and improved artillery have made in modern tactics. I fancy a square even of Irishmen, armed with pikes, would stand but small chance against the storm of shot and shell which would rain upon them upon every formation when threatened by cavalry. The notices to correspondents are amusing, as showing the condition of the Fenian muse. "Kathleen" is advised "to try a more simple style," and informed, "by-the-by, 'thunder' does not rhyme with 'slumber.'" "J. M." sends "a mere street ballad of no poetical merit, and of little merit of any kind." "The 'Soggarth Aroon' of 'Corkonian' is in bad taste." "Vox Hibernica's" war-song belongs to a class which we do not care to encourage. "National Chorus" is told, "If the air be 'first-rate for marching,' you ought to write more spirited words to it." The only poetical correspondent graciously received is "Crom Abou," who is permitted to publish an imitation of an English song, with this weak refrain:—

His locks were like the raven's wing,
I would cheer your heart to hear him sing.
For him I sigh the live-long day,
He's over the seas and far away.

The last couplet of the ballad is a marvel of feebleness:—

These words he spoke, with voice so bland (*!*),
"I come to strike for fatherland."

I have received a small pamphlet entitled "A Few Words on Strikes and Lock-outs, also on the Franchise," which contains two rather startling propositions. One is, as a means of preventing trade disputes, and, consequently, strikes and lock-outs, that all employes in factories and so forth should be made partners in the concern in so far as they shall be entitled to receive a bonus in the shape of a percentage on their wages or salaries out of the profits made. Now, I have no doubt workmen would be glad enough to accept of such a bonus; but how about the converse of the proposition—would they be willing to bear their share of losses, should losses occur, in the form of a deduction from their wages? The system of making an average of a year's transactions, say, would not meet the difficulty, for many men might be in the same employ for eleven months, and leave before the annual balance was struck, and so either lose their proportion of the bonus or have to look after obtaining what might prove not to be worth the trouble. At all events, the rate proposed by the writer of the pamphlet before me, and the instance he selects, are unfortunate. He proposes that an equal sum should be divided between shareholders in railways and their employes—that is, that the latter, who risk nothing and receive the reward of their labour week by week, should obtain as large a share of the profits as those who furnish the capital and run all the risk. I hardly think "honourable proprietors" will readily entertain this scheme. The author of the "Few Words" thinks his plan would do away with all carelessness and waste on railways, because, as he says, "the humble porter would then know for whose benefit he was working, for he himself would be one of the company." But would not the "humble porter" be apt to assert his position as one of the company in another sense, and claim a share in the management as well as of the profits, and so make confusion worse confounded? And what would become of railway dividends at all under his scheme? Shareholders generally get very little for their money as it is. If that little were halved with others, the dividend would dwindle down to a very homoeopathic affair indeed. The writer's other proposal is in reference to the suffrage, and is to this effect—that the present franchise should be superseded by one based on payment of income tax, and that votes up to a certain maximum should be given in proportion to the amount of income tax paid by each individual. This, he seems to think, is a new idea; but it has often been broached before. He puts another alternative, which, if not novel, is certainly startling, as coming from an opponent of extension of the franchise. It is this: "That as all men, who are not paupers, contribute to the support of the State by means of indirect taxation, they should all have one vote, and that all who pay income tax should have an additional vote, with an increasing number in proportion to their income up to the maximum limit." This would be extending the suffrage with a vengeance. But how is the maximum of the plurality of votes to be fixed so as to prevent the total swamping of income-tax payers by the "all men" of whom the writer speaks, and yet to be such an extension of the suffrage as will increase the weight of working men in Parliament? Besides, are there not elements among the "all men, not being paupers," which would be dangerous to every class in the community, and, above all things, to the lowest class? I fear these fine-drawn political theories won't work, and that if the franchise is extended at all, it must be done in the old track marked out by the Reform Bill.

There are no humbugs so bad as those humbugs who pretend to be philanthropic, or semi-philanthropic; and in this category I rank the London Dining Halls Company (Limited), so far, at least, as regards the style in which business is done at their establishment in Fleet-street, yclept the "Brougham Dining Hall." This establishment was opened a few weeks ago with a great flourish of trumpets as to the cheapness, superior quality, and style of serving the viands to the public. Well, I have visited the place three times with the view of judging for myself as to how the promises made are kept; and this is my experience: On my first visit I went to what are called the "select dining-rooms," and there I got some very tolerable Julienne soup, some so-so mutton, one half of which was bone, and some rather indifferent pale ale; vegetables, &c., much as in other places. On the second occasion I went to the ordinary dining-room, supposed to be for the special accommodation of working men, and there, after waiting about twenty minutes, I was served with broth, meat, and potatoes, all brought at the same time. The broth was boiling hot, the meat and potatoes were half cold when placed on the table, and, of course, were wholly so before I could cool the broth sufficiently to be able to eat it. The ale on this occasion was so execrably bad that neither myself nor a friend who accompanied me could swallow it. My third—and certainly my last—visit was made the other day, when I was attracted by a written notice at the entrance to the "select" room of "Roast Partridges this day, 9*d.*" This seemed to me wonderfully cheap, so I went in to try their quality. I got half a partridge for my 9*d.*, said partridge being nearly cold, half raw, and wholly nasty—so much so, that though there was but little of it in all, that little was too much. And this in face of the fact that in another establishment, within ten yards of the Brougham Dining Hall, anyone can get a whole partridge, well cooked and nice, for a shilling. Now, if the Dining Halls Company had started business in the ordinary way, and advertised its goods like other tradesmen, I should have had nothing whatever to say about it; but when it professes to serve the public better and cheaper than anybody else, I think it invites criticism, and deserves to have its shortcomings publicly noted. Judging by my own experience—and I was strongly inclined to view the establishment favourably—I have no hesitation in saying that at the Brougham Dining Hall, in Fleet-street, there is worse attendance

inferior, and in some respects dearer, food to be had than at many neighbouring houses. Unless the company's manager mends his system, he will find that the thing won't do.

Mr. Julian Portch, a promising young artist, whose name will be familiar to your readers, especially those who have been subscribers from the commencement of your Journal, and who will recollect his admirable sketches from the Crimea, died on the 14th inst. Mr. Portch had long been suffering from severe bodily illness, which incapacitated him from following his profession, in which, had health permitted, he would certainly have won for himself an honourable position.

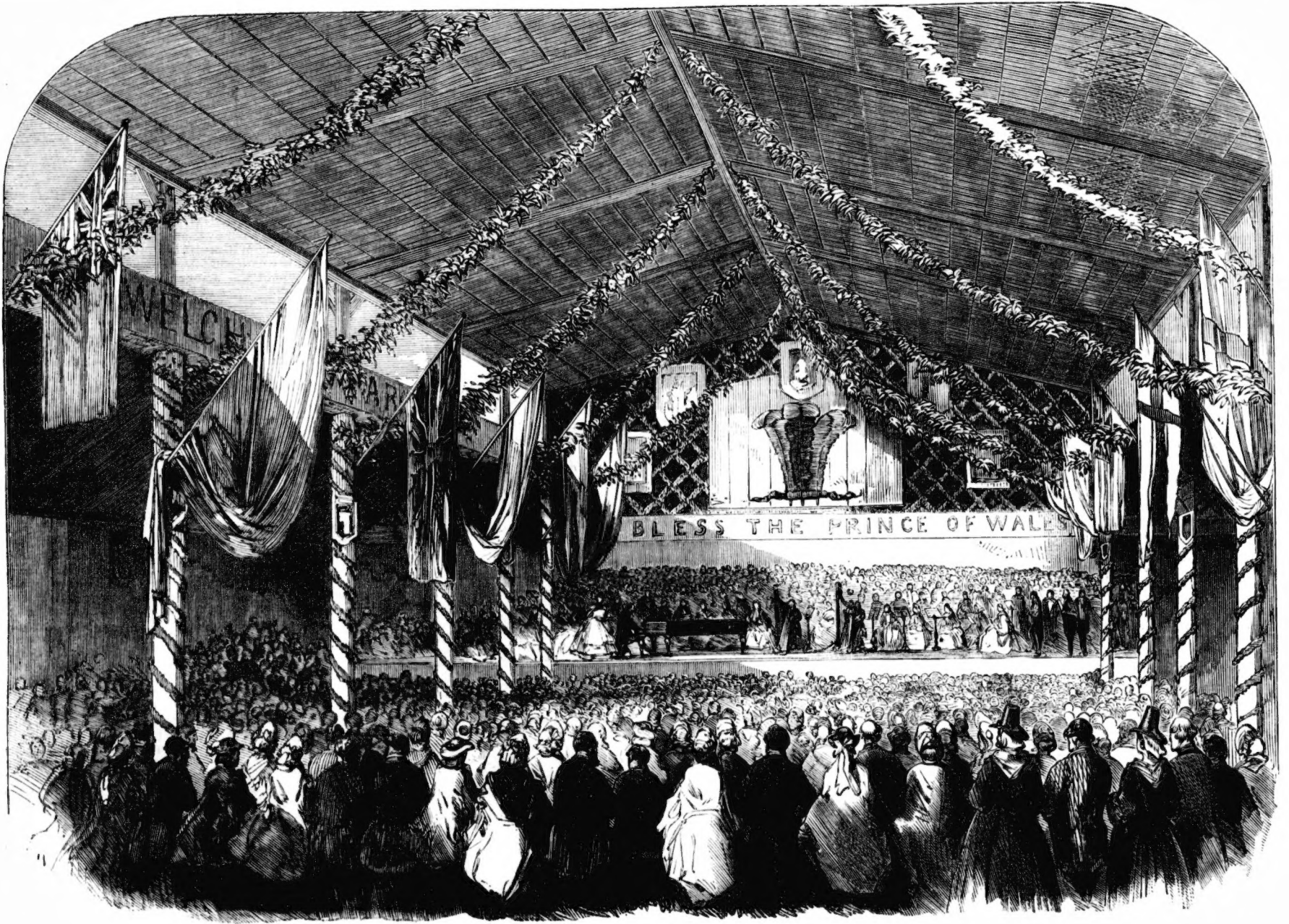
THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

No new piece has been produced at any of the theatres since last week. It is now more than a month since Offenbach's "Ba-ta-clan" established itself as a success at the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, which, if not a theatre, now gives a purely theatrical operatic entertainment. "Ba-ta-clan," or "Chang-Wang-Hi," as Messrs. William Brough and German Reed have rechristened it, is a Chinese opera, constructed on the most wildly-absurd and amusing principles. China is supposed to be an odd, eccentric, out-of-the-way, bizarre sort of country, containing the oddest sort of houses, which, in their turn, contain the oddest sort of inhabitants, who, in their turn, cherish the oddest sort of notions. But chopsticks are knives and forks, pigtales are Truffitt's happiest inspirations, and willow-pattern plates are landscape photographs, compared to the view of the manners and customs of the Celestial Empire, as portrayed at the Gallery of Illustration. Conceive four people seeing each other hourly for more than a year, and not discovering that they were all English! Conceive each of these English persons being convinced that the three others were Chinese! Conceive a whole province governed by a man whose sole right of conquest is the utterance of the two syllables "Ro! Co!" and a conspiracy—a sort of Shanghai Fenianism—which has for cause, end, aim, object, and organisation the three syllables, "Boo-la-bang!" Imagine a speech from the throne consisting only of such familiar household words as tapioca, sago, maizena, and tobacco; and the chief of an Oriental despotism heading an insurrection against himself, and leading on insurgent troops for the accomplishment of his own overthrow. This is, indeed, midsummer madness taught to act, dance, and, above all, to sing; and to exercise those arts in intimate relation with Offenbach's droll, sparkling, and original music—a burlesque of the Italian opera which is the highest and most scientific form of the caricatura. Miss Augusta Thomson and Mr. Shaw play and sing the principal parts, the lady with admirable *esprit*, *finesse*, and vocalisation, and the gentleman with a quaint drollery and quiet humour which are as agreeable as original. Mr. Whiffin and Mr. Ralph Wilkinson must also be mentioned with praise, as exemplars of English phlegm and Tartar ferocity.

It is wonderful how the law of compensation governs everything. If a man breaks his arm, the next week a female relation will leave him a handsome legacy; if burglars enter and make off with your plate, the dark horse you have backed wins, and you unexpectedly make a "pot" of money. So with your Lounger. Not that any female relative has left him a legacy, or that he has made a "pot" of money (such not being the custom either with his female relatives or himself), but that this week, having brought forth no news connected with the theatres, is singularly rich in events that have happened, or are going to happen, with regard to entertainments. First and foremost, I attended the Mechanics' Institute in Chancery-lane the other night—a fact which is likely to surprise you, as you are aware that I do not doat upon mechanics' institutes; but this was an especial occasion. Mrs. Howard Paul was to give an entertainment—or lecture, I think it was called—on Paris. Mrs. Paul rattled on charmingly about the most charming capital in the universe, and sang some French and English songs with her own peculiar verve, force, and finish. Apropos, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul are shortly to appear, for an engagement of three months or longer, at the Egyptian Hall, in the room where Mr. Arthur Sketchley is now giving his "Paris Portrayed" and "Mrs. Brown at Queen Victoria's Own Theatre." Mr. Sketchley's provincial engagements take him from town; and Mr. and Mrs. Paul's metropolitan arrangements bring them from the provinces. "Le Roi est mort—vive le Roi!"

Those Scottish folks resident in London—and we have among us a considerable number—have now the opportunity of witnessing an entertainment at the POLYGRAPHIC HALL (Mr. W. S. Woodin's headquarters when he is in town), which treats entirely of Scotch character and Scotch humour. It is called "Mrs. Macgregor's Levée," and the artists are Mr. and Mrs. Gourlay and Little Johnny, who, I presume, is also a Gourlay. Upon the Scotch stage Mr. Gourlay is known as an admirable interpreter of the national character, and is famous in the repertoire of the late Mr. Mackay—Baillie Nicol Jarvie, Peter Peebles, Jock Howieson, &c. He possesses the canny humour which our northern compatriots ascribe to themselves, and has a singular brightness and power of facial expression, which reminded me of Mr. Buckstone. Mr. Gourlay is evidently an actor, and accustomed to use the broad effects required for the theatre. It is, perhaps, not so much full-length portraits, with strong breadth and depth of colouring, that are the most likely to strike the untheatrical habits of a small hall, as miniatures of high delicacy and finish. Character should rather be suggested than extended into caricature. To make a vicious comparison, claret or negus is likely to be better suited to the palates of the audiences who frequent entertainments than whisky, however pure or above proof.

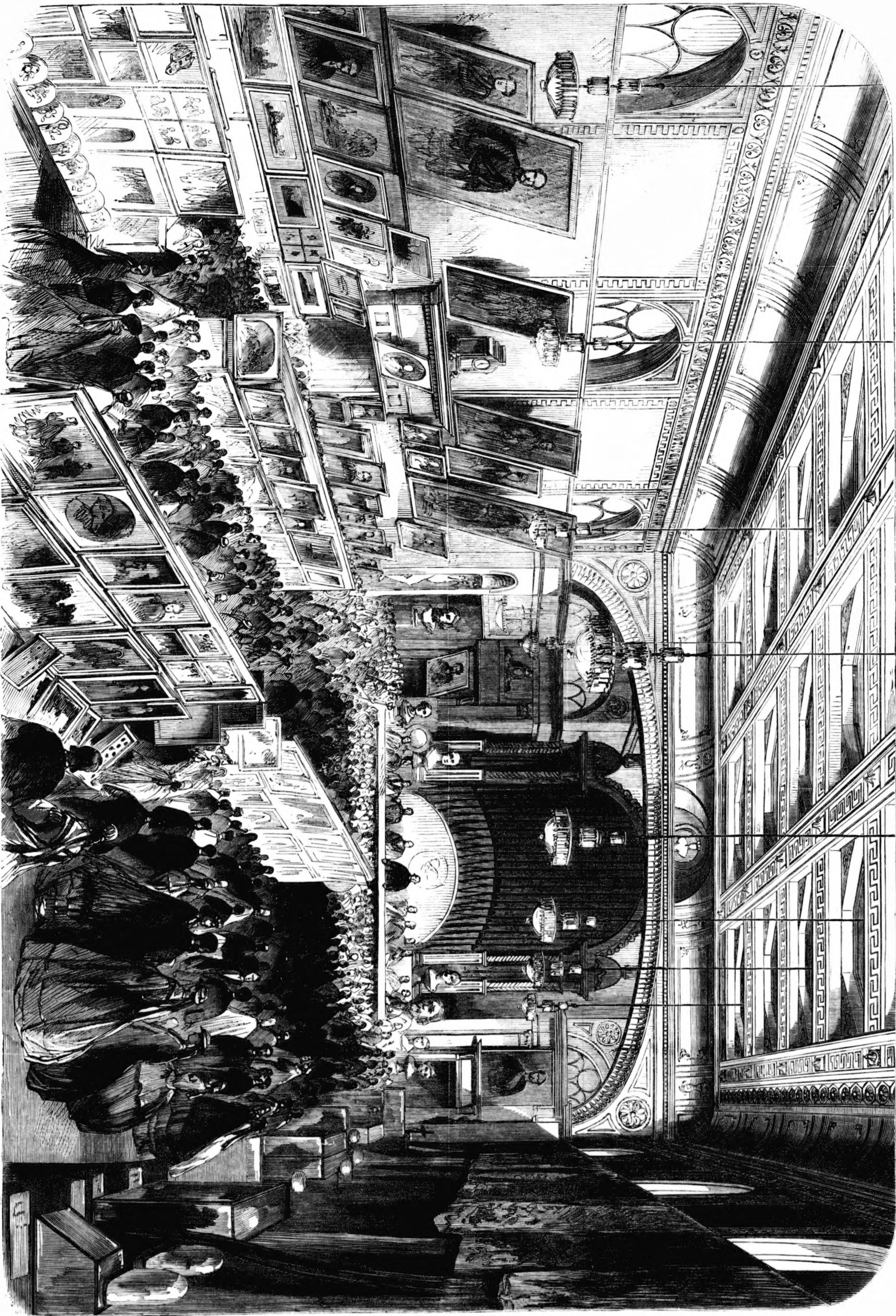
I have not yet got through the entertainments of this prolific week. There are yet the Christy's Minstrels, at ST. JAMES'S HALL—the "only original and veritable legitimate Christy's Minstrels," as they call themselves in their advertisements. After the many batches of "original" Christys who have appeared of late from time to time, and who have sung the same songs and asked the same "conunderables," I was rather staggered to hear that the only "original" Christys had not been seen in London for five years, but that they intended to open, at the lesser St. James's Hall, on Monday night, for a final season, previously to returning to America. We may consider these, then, to be the only "Original and veritable legitimate Christy's Minstrels," the sole possessors of the right to use the name of the said Christy, who, according to their account, first inaugurated the company, and died, many years ago, in America, after realising a large fortune. Be this as it may, the members of the present troupe are gifted with considerable musical and vocal talent. Their part-singing is admirable; and, were it not that their instrumental performances are accompanied, for the most part, with what I really can only call noise, their playing would be extremely agreeable to listen to. Would it not be possible for "bones" and his contemporary of the tambourine to go through their violent contortions without so much clamour as not only to drown all the instruments but to send home the occupants of the stalls at least with most splitting headaches? I have a distinct recollection that Pell, the original bones—I mean of the Ethiopian Serenaders, the first company of this class of entertainers—used to get the greatest amount of fun out of his osseous weapons, not by violence but by comic art, and used to be intensely amusing. The company consists of some eleven or twelve performers, the proprietors being Messrs. G. W. Moore, J. P. Crocker, J. Ritter, and H. Hamilton; and, in addition to the usual songs and eccentric dances, they exhibit a very effective series of dioramic views, which help to vary the programme. The diorama commences with the outward voyage of the Great Eastern and the perils of the sea, comprising some well-arranged effects of a storm, ship on fire, &c., and concludes with some views of plantation life "down South," all of which received the special commendation of the audience. There is the usual amount of violent and grotesque dancing; of course the inevitable "jig" by the "champion" dancer. I have no doubt, however, but that "the only original and veritable legitimate Christys" will have a successful season, for the house when I looked in the other night was crowded.



MEETING OF THE WELSH BISTEDDFOD AT ABERYSTWYTH.



MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION EXAMINING THE GEOLOGY OF THE WREKIN.



THE DISCOP OF CUFOR OPERATING THE INDUSTRIAL AND FINE-ART EXHIBITION AT READING.

THE WELSH EISTEDDOD.

THIS grand festival of the bards of Wales, of literature, science, and art, took place during the past week in the town of Aberystwyth. We take the following account of Eisteddfodau from a local contemporary:—

From the earliest times these meetings have greatly tended to the elevation of the moral and religious status of the Welsh people. Not only have they increased their religious fervour, but they have done much to promote that kindness and gentleness of manner which is so remarkable amongst the population both of North and South Wales. In a knowledge of music the Cymry have, so to speak, ever held an exalted position. Giraldus Cambrensis, for example, speaks with rapture of the proficiency and brilliant execution of the Welsh minstrels at his early time. In the twelfth century, two gorseddau were held in the Castle of Cardigan—the one under the patronage of Bleddyn ap Cynfyn, and the other under Rhys ap Gruffydd, Prince of South Wales. In the fourteenth century, Ifor Hael held an Eisteddfod at Gwern y Cleppa, where Dafydd ap Gwilym won the honours of the bardic chair of Glamorgan. Shortly afterwards a Gorsedd was held at Dol Goch yn Emllyn, at which Rhys Goch Eryri and Sion Cent won the chief prizes; but Sion Cent refused the honours of the bardic chair of Ceredigion, stating that the praise and honour were due to God alone, from whom all genius emanated. This was a noble sentiment, and would of itself be sufficient to immortalise Eisteddfodau as a source of good. Dafydd ap Gwilym carried away the prize for the best love-song, and was crowned with the bardic chaplet by his brother bards. He was the greatest writer of love-songs that had appeared in Wales up to that period. In 1451 a great Eisteddfod was held at Carmarthen, under the patronage of Gruffydd ap Nicholas, Lord of Dinevor. Gruffydd ap Nicholas turned to the bards, and said, "What is the meaning and intention of an Eisteddfod?" No one answered. Then he said to Dafydd ap Edmund, "Thou little man, with the gay dress, answer me." And he answered him thus:—"Remembrance of the past—study of the present—judgment of the future." "Very good," said the patron, "but give me a further explanation." Then Dafydd replied:—"What is passed cannot be mended. What is must be as it is. What is to come may be improved. What is past is present in the memory. The present is before our eyes. We can only conjecture about the future. It is too late to improve the past, but it might have been better. It is too late to improve the present, but it might have been better; and, as to the future, we should endeavour to make it better." "Very good," said Gruffydd ap Nicholas, and he turned to the bards, saying, "Nothing is good, if it can be made better. Here is the silver medal, and he who sings best and displays the greatest knowledge in the art and sciences shall have it." In recent times there have been many famous Eisteddfodau held. We have spoken of music and love, and we cannot pass by without noticing the fruit which they bear—namely, literature and art. Where the strong force of passions rage, and where they are not subdued and brought into sweet accord by kindly feelings and domestic affections, all history shows us that art and literature have withered and perished, and religion itself has decayed. Eisteddfodau have proved themselves to be, as we have said, not only the origin but the nursing mothers of these inspiring principles, which excite all men who embrace them to the avoidance of all that is mean and base, and the performance of those noble deeds that live in a nation's history, as well as implanting in individual breasts the highest aspirations.

The committee of the national Eisteddfod judged wisely in holding their great annual meeting in the town of Aberystwyth. It has been famed in history from the earliest times. Camden, who ascribes the building of its fine old castle walls to Gilbert de Mare, commonly called Strongbow, states that it was then the most populous and important town in the county of Cardigan. It is pleasantly situated on the lower extremity of the valley of the Rheidol, in the midst of lofty hills and on a bold eminence overlooking the celebrated Cardigan Bay, by which it is bounded on one side, while on the other it is environed by the beautiful river of Rheidol, over which is a handsome stone bridge of five arches, forming an entrance to the town from the south. Great changes have recently taken place in the good old town. The Great Cambrian Railway has now been opened some time, and affords facility of communication with all parts of the United Kingdom. Many years ago new streets were built, and a beautiful terrace planned and in part carried out. It is now completed, and has the appearance of a fairy crescent, with the celebrated Belle Vue Hotel in the centre. Since the opening of the railway new and magnificent houses have sprung up in all directions; and we believe that we are stating a fact in saying that in a very short time this beautiful bay will be surrounded by noble mansions to its furthest extremity. The castle has of late been repaired and renovated, and the admirable taste which has been displayed in this and in all the accompanying signs of improvement calls forth one voice of universal admiration.

The Eisteddfod pavilion was erected by Mr. J. Rhydwyn Jones, Rhyll, in the Queen's-road, adjoining the Townhall. It was admirably adapted for the festival, and the decorations were perfect. The pavilion was 52 yards in length, by 36 yards in breadth, and the platform at the east end measured 50 ft. by 30 ft., with a raised gallery behind for the choir. The building was calculated to accommodate 6000 persons, the seats being well and comfortably arranged, so that there was no crowding, nor was there any space lost. The interior was admirably lighted from side windows in the roof and along the aisles, also with large windows in the east and west ends, the latter one being elegantly decorated with stars, hearts, and other emblems. The structure, we should say, consisted of a centre nave, with two side aisles. On each side were eleven pillars. On each pillar was hung a shield or other decoration, and all around the pillars and brackets supporting the roof were festoons of evergreens and roses. The shields were those of the fifteen Royal tribes of Wales, richly done in colours on white ground, and, with the name of the tribe limned on a scroll below, had a striking effect. Flags of all nations, with the British ensign in front, were displayed over the whole length of the roof, and also the banners of the principal families in the country. Mottoes and inscriptions were profusely scattered over the walls—the most conspicuous being a banner inscribed with the words "God Bless the Prince of Wales."

The proceedings at the Eisteddfod consisted of concerts, recitations of original poems, discussions on social science, education in Wales, the history of the Cymric language, the delivery of addresses by natives of the Principality and by distinguished visitors, the awarding of prizes, &c. The principal prize of the meeting (£20 and a medal), for which seven poetical compositions were submitted, was not awarded, as none of the poems were deemed worthy of the prize, which was announced to be open for competition at the National Eisteddfod to be held next year at Chester. In other respects the meeting is considered to have been highly successful.

HALF THE POTATO CROP in the neighbourhood of Spalding is said to have been destroyed by disease.

A REMARKABLE SERMON.—The Rev. Arthur Murrell, of Manchester, delivered a lecture on "Chatterton" at the Townhall, Birmingham, a few evenings since; and, by way of illustrating Chatterton's moral courage in tearing up those of his poems which did not exactly suit him, the lecturer spoke as follows of the first sermon he wrote:—"It was read by my fellow-student, and, on its conclusion, one recommended me to burn it as soon as I got near enough to the fire. But I didn't do it; I kept it, and preached it once, at the top of my voice, in a village chapel, before seventeen intelligent people. Before I had gone far with my sermon an old lady fainted, and then a young lady went into hysterics; and, as it took two men and four women to take each lady out, there were only three left; and of these, before I had finished, two were asleep and one was deaf."

THE ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE.—The Royal Naval Reserve has now nearly, we believe, if it has not quite, reached the full numbers contemplated by the Admiralty when it was first instituted. And if the men trained in the other parts are all equal to those drilled in London, under the command of Captain Mould, R.N., and his subordinate officers, the country may well be congratulated on being in possession of an efficient as well as a sufficient force. The London section of the reserve was reviewed, a few days since, by the Duke of Somerset, when the men went through their exercises in a way that would not have disgraced the gannery of the Excellent. The Duke expressed himself highly satisfied with the progress and creditable appearance of the men.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION EXCURSIONS.

NOT the least interesting, and probably the most agreeable, portion of the proceedings at the annual meetings of the British Association are the excursions to places of interest in the neighbourhood of the town where the congress is held. These excursions are generally arranged to take place on Saturdays, and this year the first excursion-day (Saturday, the 9th inst.) was especially agreeable. One of the most popular trips was to Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon, and all the tickets for it were speedily taken up. More than 200 excursionists of both sexes started at half-past nine by special train for Warwick on the Great Western Railway. It was a fine sunny day, with an agreeable breeze, and on leaving the rail nearly all preferred walking to the different objects of interest to availing themselves of conveyances. On the party arriving at Warwick station, they passed through the beautiful priory grounds to the museum in the market-place, and inspected the very excellent ornithological and geological collections, particularly the fossil remains, and the "footprints of animals" on pieces of rock, which the institution contains. Then they were conducted to the old church of St. Mary, and carefully inspected the interior, including that beautiful specimen of the pure Gothic architecture in the country, the Beauchamp Chapel, with the effigy in brass of the founder, Richard Beauchamp; the tomb of the Earl of Leicester, Queen Elizabeth's favourite; and the curiously-constructed confessional, which greatly amused the ladies, especially when they peeped through and found some young gentlemen within ready to receive any declaration which they might feel disposed to make. Thence some went to the Leicester Hospital for decayed soldiers, an ancient pile of buildings in High-street, in the great hall of which—now used as a coalhouse—James I. was entertained by Sir Fulke Greville. The castle, which the Earl of Warwick had thrown open for the occasion, was, however, the chief object of interest. Those who had an eye for the picturesque first took a view of the noble structure from the bridge over the Avon—a view familiar to most persons, by its having been repeatedly painted and engraved by different eminent artists. They then entered the interior, saw all the principal apartments of what has been described as the "fairest monument of ancient and chivalrous splendour which yet remains uninjured by time;" mounted the towers, from which a magnificent prospect is obtained, and did not forget to hear the old lady at the postern-gate describe the relics there collected of the giant Guy of Warwick—his sword, shield, helmet, breastplate, and porridge-pot, the latter of which—an immense metal bowl, capable of holding 102 gallons—she sounded in artistic style with a proportionately large flesh-fork. The party next took train for Stratford, and saw all the sights of that town which have been rendered famous by their connection with the name of Shakespeare. They collected first round the poet's birthplace, while the ex-Mayor, Mr. Flower, gave, from an open carriage, a brief description of the house; they then went through the different rooms, inspected the grammar-school, the site of New-place; and, lastly, the noble church of Stratford, with Shakespeare's monument and the entry of his baptism in the register of the period. In the evening there was a dinner at the Townhall, which was presided over by Mr. Flower, and at which some speeches were made.

There was another excursion made to the Severn Valley, which was divided into four sections, the first of which proceeded to Wroxeter and Shrewsbury. At Wroxeter (Uriconium), Mr. Thomas Wright, M.A., F.S.A., conducted them over the excavations. The carriages then conveyed them to Shrewsbury, where they visited the museum, containing remains from Uriconium; St. Mary's Church, the Abbey Church, and other objects of interest in the town. The town contains several specimens of old timbered houses. A magnificent one, in the occupation of Mr. W. J. Clement, M.P., was thrown open for inspection. The party left Shrewsbury by a Great Western train for Buildwas, and proceeded afterwards by train to Coalbrookdale, where a dinner was provided in the Literary Institution by the liberality of the Severn Valley Field Club.

Section 2 viewed the Wrekin and examined the geology of the district. This party took return tickets for Wellington, whence they proceeded, by way of the Steeraway limestone (carboniferous) quarries, to the Wrekin, examining in their route the greenstone, syenitic, and felspathic rocks and the enormous dislocations to which the stratified rocks have been subjected. At a cottage on the hill the party took refreshments provided for them. They then proceeded, by way of Little Wenlock, to Buildwas, and examined the fossiliferous beds at the base of the Wenlock shale, and, afterwards, the extensive drift beds near the station.

Section 3 went to Wenlock and Buildwas. At Wenlock, the fine remains of the abbey and the abbot's house, by permission of the proprietor, Mr. J. M. Gaskell, M.P., were thrown open to visitors. The curious ancient townhall and the church were also open to inspection. Geologists found ample occupation in the Wenlock limestone quarries, near the town. The party then visited Buildwas Abbey, a Norman structure in a fine state of preservation; after which they proceeded by special train to Coalbrookdale to dinner.

Section 4 proceeded to Coalbrookdale to examine the geology of the district, and to view Messrs. Maw's tileworks and the Coalbrookdale Iron Company's works. The objects of geological interest examined by this section, under the guidance of Mr. G. Maw, F.S.A., were the banks of the Severn above Buildwas Bridge, with exposures of fossiliferous beds near the base of the Wenlock shale; the drift-beds in cutting by Buildwas Abbey, and the gravel-pits to the south of the Buildwas station; Benthall Edge and extensive quarries in the Wenlock limestone. Benthall Hall was reached between one and two o'clock, where Mr. George Maw invited the section to luncheon; after which Messrs. Maw's tileworks and the exposures of coal-measure strata above the Ironbridge Railway station were examined. The section then proceeded to Coalbrookdale, over Ironbridge and Lincoln Hill, and examined on their way the caverns in the Wenlock limestone, and joined the other sections at dinner in the Literary Institute. The return train arrived at Birmingham at a late hour in the evening.

GENERAL BIXIO ON FRENCH AND ENGLISH SHIPS OF WAR.—General Bixio has, on his return from Portsmouth, written a six-column report on the immense superiority of the English over the French navy. Speaking of our shipbuilding, "the only department in which France can bear any comparison," he says:—"The best French types are due to the genius of Dupuy de Lôme, as all admit. In France, therefore, shipbuilding requires a man of genius; whereas in England you find docks and yards at every step along the four chief rivers—the Thames, the Clyde, the Tyne, and the Mersey. One day they launch the Great Eastern, on the second the Warrior, on the third the Minotaur, on the fourth the Northumberland, on the fifth the Agincourt, &c. How can the genius of one man be compared with the genius of a whole nation?"

VICTORIA PARK.—Few places of public resort in London serve their object so well as does Victoria Park. Situate at the East-End—being the only place of the kind, indeed, at the East-End—and in the midst of a dense population, it is frequented daily by thousands of the working classes, for whose especial relaxation it was originally designed. On Sundays its appearance, to a contemplative mind, affords an amount of gratification which cannot be got elsewhere. The Crystal Palace, on the occasion of its most popular fête, never presents a spectacle so animating. In the summer months, when the shrubs and trees present to the sun their greenest and brightest leaves, when the plants and flowers are in full bloom and everything wears the gayest dress, rarely is the number of visitors less than 100,000. Not unfrequently it reaches even 150,000; and the average number, we believe, exceeds 120,000. It is gratifying in the extreme to have the testimony of Mr. Presto, the head gardener (who, by-the-way, has published an exceedingly useful guide to the botanical portion of the park), that, beyond reasonable wear and tear, not a shilling's worth of damage—of wilful damage—is done throughout the whole twelve months. The character of the East-End, he remarked to us with some emphasis, was very much belied; and we believed him. The bathing-ponds are also very popular, thousands of men and lads using them every morning; and on Sunday morning the number is often considerably above 10,000. Last Sunday there were over 13,000. Every kind of amusement and recreation is encouraged in the park, and every effort appears to be made by those to whose care it is intrusted to make it as attractive as possible. The floral display this year has been on a scale much more extensive, grand, and varied than ever before; every flower, plant, shrub, and tree has been labelled, in all cases where possible, with the English name, and by this means a taste for horticulture, it is to be hoped, is being encouraged and nurtured amongst that class of people to whom the opportunities of getting a sight of green fields are, "like angels' visits, few and far between."

READING INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

NUMEROUS though the industrial exhibitions throughout the country during the present year have been, few of them can be said to have offered greater attractions to the visitor than that which is now open at Reading. The idea of setting on foot such an exhibition was, as early as January last, suggested by Mr. F. J. Blandy, and a meeting of the leading inhabitants of the town was immediately afterwards held, with the view of carrying the suggestion into effect. The result was the appointment of a committee, whose duty it was to make the necessary preparations for the purpose, and to invite the artisans of Reading, as well as others in its vicinity, to aid them in the effort by sending in contributions, the work of their own hands. The invitation to contribute to the exhibition was not, however, confined within those limits. The nobility and gentry of Berkshire were applied to to lend for the occasion some of the many valuable paintings and other objects of interest which they were known to possess. The application was very generally and very promptly responded to; so that, independently of what may be termed the industrial features of the exhibition, there is a loan collection, comprising many rare and beautiful works of art, some very ancient, some the productions of recent times. From the outset the undertaking has been patronised by the Queen; and her Majesty caused a letter to be addressed from the Rosenau to the Mayor of Reading, stating that the exhibition committee might select for the loan department several objects of interest from the collection at Windsor Castle. Of the permission thus graciously accorded the committee speedily availed themselves, and a choice selection of objects of interest from the Royal collection adorns the hall.

The exhibition is held in the spacious oblong chamber which occupies the principal portion of the Townhall, and which was only last autumn reopened, after having undergone a process of very tasteful decoration. It is in the Italian style of architecture, and presents a light and elegant appearance, set off, as it is, by the delicate tints of the colouring of the ceiling and the walls. At the end of it, opposite the entrance, a fine organ is placed, and at the left-hand corner at the same end a doorway leads into the council-chamber, a moderately-sized room, decorated so as to correspond with the hall, and devoted also to the purposes of the exhibition. Through this chamber, or by means of a direct communication immediately by the side of the organ, the visitor can pass at once into a temporary but solid structure of tolerably large dimensions, the tent-shaped roof of which is so lighted as to show off to advantage not only the paintings hung all round the walls, but the various works of art displayed on raised counters in the centre of the room and along the sides. In this temporary apartment it is that the chief articles of the loan collection are exhibited. Conspicuous among them is the celebrated "Tinted Venus," the property of Mr. Charles Morrison, of Basildon Park, which attracted so much notice at the Exhibition of 1862. In the centre of the room, where the rare works of art sent by her Majesty are assembled, is placed the beautifully-engraved shield which Francis I. of France presented to our own King Henry VIII. Close by it are some exquisite specimens of the famous Wedgwood ware, rich carpets taken from the tent of Tippeco Sahib, a gun of curious workmanship which he once owned, a chain of solid ivory inlaid with gold, dirks lavishly ornamented with precious stones, antique mosaics, and models in wax wrought with wonderful delicacy. The walls of the room are thickly studded with paintings of the old and modern schools. On all sides, too, are rare articles of vertu, caskets in filigree-work, bronzes, Oriental china, cabinets, and cups of ivory and gold elaborately engraved. Passing from this room to the council-chamber, the eye rests again on bronzes, and antiques, and paintings; while in the centre of the chamber are piled up an enormous number of goblets and vases, prizes won by members of the different corps of Berkshire volunteers. At the end of the great hall, next the organ, are displayed, along partitions erected for the purpose, portraits in crayon by Richmond, and some charming drawings in water colours, the productions of Duncan, and Evans, and Catermole. Among the water colours are fine specimens of the interiors of cathedrals painted by Mrs. H. Burr, of Aldermaston-court, who has largely contributed to the exhibition. The other chief contributors to the loan collection are Lady Barrington, who sends some valuable miniature paintings; Sir C. Russell, M.P., who, besides many finely-wrought articles of Indian texture, has lent for the occasion a pair of bronze vases which once belonged to the ill-fated Marie Antoinette; Mr. Benyon, M.P.; Colonel Loyd Lindsay, M.P.; and Lord Overstone. Lord Eversley supplies, together with costly enamels and various antique articles, a miniature portrait of Garrick, and a curious gun captured in India by Lord Hardinge. Sir Paul Hunter, Sir F. H. Goldsmid, M.P., and Mr. Attenborough are also contributors to the collection which embraces many objects of great beauty, and not a few of great interest. The industrial part of the exhibition is confined, in the main, to that end of the large hall next the entrance, and here are to be found some most creditable displays of drawings in oil and water colours, as well as in chalk, of inlaying in wood, and of ornamental penmanship. To this department of the exhibition the fair sex have very efficiently contributed; the specimens of quilting, crochet, and wax-flow work being very numerous, and for the most part extremely well executed. Cases of birds and of the smaller tribes of four-footed animals, stuffed with much skill, are arranged at each side of the entrance to the hall, about which a series of the most miscellaneous objects present themselves to the view. Beneath the great hall a room is set apart for machinery.

The exhibition was inaugurated by the Bishop of Oxford, on Wednesday of last week, and has since been daily crowded with visitors.

PRINCE ALFRED has abandoned his intention to visit Constantinople. The prevalence of cholera in that city has, no doubt, occasioned this change in his plans.

WATER SUPPLY OF LONDON.—Such is the present condition of some of the London water companies on the eastern side of London, arising out of a scarcity of water, that they are obliged, it is said, to take their supply from prohibited and impure sources. The enormous quantity of water daily abstracted from the Thames, above Kingston, by some of the London water companies, estimated during dry periods to be between 80,000,000 and 90,000,000 of gallons daily, have so exhausted the amount of back water due to the portions of the river at and below Richmond, that a movement is about to be made with the view of devising some means by which the miasma and stench arising from the accumulation of mud and filth in those parts of the river may be obviated. One scheme by which this nuisance is to be got rid of is the construction of a lock and weir at Isleworth or Brentford. It is estimated by the Conservancy Board that, by building this proposed lock and weir, 167,500,000 gallons of tidal water would be excluded daily from the portion of the river between the proposed weir and Teddington Lock, or more than twice the quantity of water pumped from the river above Kingston by the water companies before alluded to. It would, therefore, not only be unjust, but simply impracticable, to allow any of the companies on the eastern side of London to draw their supply from the Thames. Indeed, if the navigation of the lower portion of the Thames is to be upheld, and the dilution of the London sewage maintained, the quantity of water taken from the river by the five existing water companies ought to be restricted to within some reasonable limit, particularly as it can be shown, it is said, from surveys which have been made by Mr. Hamilton Fulton, the engineer, that an inexhaustible supply of pure water can be secured from the River Severn, at Tewkesbury, and conveyed to London by large iron pipes, a distance of ninety-eight miles, at a comparatively moderate outlay. It is alleged to be the intention of the promoters of this project to construct their pumping establishment and filter-beds near Tewkesbury, with capacious storage reservoirs near Stamsay-bill, with service reservoirs in the neighbourhood of Hampstead-heath, at an elevation of about 400 ft. above Trinity high-water mark, which eminence is of sufficient height to give high pressure over the tops of all the London houses. From analyses of the Severn water at Tewkesbury, which have been made by some of the most eminent chemists of the day, it has been ascertained that, when properly filtered, it is pure and very soft; and though at times somewhat turbid, when allowed to subside the deposition of mechanical impurities is very rapid. The Severn River is particularly free from the contamination of sewage of large communities, and the sewage of those towns which is at present discharged into the river could be easily diverted. If the above objects are practicable, it appears that this project, when carried out, would be likely to prove one of the surest means of staying the progress of cholera and typhus; and, in other respects, would doubtless prove one of the greatest boons which could be conferred upon the inhabitants of London.

Literature.

Memoirs of Sir Richard Steele. By HENRY R. MONTGOMERY, author of "Thomas Moore: His Life Writings, and Contemporaries," "Isaac Bickerstaff," &c. 2 vols. Edinburgh: W. P. Nimmo.

Mr. Montgomery, who dedicates his book to Lord Balfour, has no merit as a writer but the absence of pretension. We fail, with our contemporaries, to discern that he had any qualifications for the task he undertook when he began this book. The mere style is by no means what we look for in a work about the wits of Queen Anne's time. Mr. Montgomery speaks of his "distance from the press" in palliation of some errata. The errata are of no consequence, however; a child could correct them. But it is not "distance from the press" which is the occasion of a man's delivering himself of sentences like this:—"Though his then trivial appointments, perhaps, occupied him sufficiently to flitter away his time, he had too active a mind, and too strong a motive for the exercise of his talents, to continue so permanently" (p. 129, vol. i.). Still worse is the following:—"In thus inaugurating what may be termed a new department in literature, it may be desirable to take a hasty glance," &c. (p. 134, vol. i.). Again:—"Both among the ancients and moderns, works of the nature of disconnected essays, on a variety of subjects connected with literature, taste, manners, and character, had not been wanting, of which the works of *Theophrastus* and *Aulus Gellius* may be referred to among the former" (p. 135, vol. i.). "In the finished portrait of Amicus . . . he tempered the darts of that forked tongue of flame with the tones of expostulation." And very numerous other cases, quite as bad. It must always remain a curious question how producers of books who write like this are originally determined to literature. Here are two thick large volumes—by an author who has also written others—and not in one single page do we find a trace of literary qualification. There are no good sentences to set off against the bad ones; no happy turns of thought to suggest that the platitudes are a result of languor or any other passing cause. A good writer may write badly now and then, but he cannot go on for 700 pages, writing sometimes very badly, and at all other times indifferently.

One of the strangest blunders the book contains is to be found at page 321 of volume i. That page is headed "*Lady Montagu desires Steele's correspondence.*" Not remembering anything in Lady Montagu's life or letters which could justify such a heading, we looked down the lines with some curiosity, and read as follows:—"It may be here mentioned as a subject of regret that we should have no letters, &c. from one who had expressed a desire for Steele's correspondence—Lady M. W. Montagu." Having got so far, the author appears to have reflected that it was rather a free-and-easy thing for Lady Mary to ask that a man should correspond with her; so he proceeds to soften matters down for her. "Lady Mary had been acquainted with Mrs. Steele before her marriage, and with himself after, and from his great intimacy with her husband, she says, in one of her letters to the latter, 'I wish you would learn, Mr. Steele, to write to your wife.' Well, the writing in this passage is quite up to Mr. Montgomery's usual mark; but the whole affair is founded on a verbal error. What Lady Montagu really wrote was, 'I wish you would learn from Steele to write to your wife'—meaning that Steele's letters were both frequent and affectionate, and capable of furnishing a good model for a negligent husband. We need not echo the comments which contemporaries have made upon other errors; and the subject, after all, is a very easy one, the ground full of conspicuous landmarks, and easily to be mapped out.

It is impossible not to find a compilation like Mr. Montgomery's interesting for short snatches, because anecdote is almost always agreeable reading, and here the associations have a great charm about them. But we have nothing that is new. Here are the old, old questions, stated in the old, old way. Was it *Budgell* or *Tickell* who wrote the obnoxious *Spectator* which made Addison kill Sir Roger? Was *Richard Savage* what he pretended to be or not? Was Steele a great gambler? Why did Lady Mary Montagu go abroad alone? and so on. Memoirs of Congreve, memoirs of Gay, memoirs of Swift, memoirs of nearly everybody that lived in Steele's time and at all within his orbit—these are supplied to us, along with some very bad portraits. The drawback is, that while we have read it all before, Mr. Montgomery cannot put any new life into it. His great notion is that Steele has been underrated in favour of Addison. But it is useless to try and make the majority of us relish Steele's somewhat pedagogic manner as we do that of Addison, with its quiet, brooding humour. The merits of Steele are obvious, and he is greatly the superior of all his colleagues in the way in which he writes of women and of religious matters. But if anyone who is tolerably familiar with the *Coverley* papers will call to mind those that he enjoys most in the recollection, and those from which quotations are most frequently made, and will then turn to the originals, he will find that they are all by Addison, and not by Steele. The best thing of Steele's in the *Coverley* series is that bit about the ancestor who "narrowly escaped being killed in the Civil Wars: for," said Sir Roger, "he was sent out of the field upon a private message the day before the Battle of Worcester!"

Who is the Heir? A Novel. By MORTIMER COLLINS. 3 vols. London: Max-well and Co.

Mr. Mortimer Collins, in a first novel, has achieved a successful mingling of two styles, both of which have been and are more than usually successful. To the politics, the daring, and the romantic exaggeration of Mr. Disraeli, he adds much of that different tone of high life, the haughty, calm, or overbearing tendencies of character, with eccentricities of incident familiar to readers of "*Maurice Dring*" and its companion volumes. In constructing stories, Mr. Disraeli never cares to let you know what becomes of his heroes and heroines—three more volumes, at least, are wanted. Mr. Laurence generally settles his friends safely enough! Mr. Mortimer Collins hits a medium course. He makes a story—wild and disjointed, but still a story—and he finishes it; and, being wild and disjointed, much (apart from the story) depends upon the filling up; and this nobody would pretend to be up to the Disraeli mark. In brief, Mr. Collins is inferior to the predecessors whose styles he has mingled; but, at the same time, the mingling has a novel charm, and the writer's native power is beyond all question.

A notion of the book may be best given by describing the characters rather than telling their stories, which in this complicated case would be, moreover, unfair, as Mr. Collins keeps his people well in hand, and only shows "*Who is the Heir*" when near the winning-post. The Mauleverers, father and two sons, with about twenty years' difference of ages between each, are all alike. It is *family*. They are great gentlemen, accomplished, dignified; and, although in no way devoid of natural affection, they are about as cool to one another as a ten thousand years' entombed frog here might be to a similarly circumstanced frog in New Zealand. They might for coldness take the place of the "lions on their old stone gates;" or, soon, when a little more petrified, they might save Sir Edwin Landreer some little trouble and the country much well-deserved indignation. To these gentlemen it is a matter of utter indifference how her they retain their vast estates or not; but they are very different in their love-making. Amongst the principal people, and, indeed, many others, these three are almost the only ones who do not seem to be just slightly copied from some original, known or unknown. The Earl of Riverdale and his daughter Vivian are delightful, as far as they go. They live in regal splendour, but are the plainest and least pretentious people in the world, as the really great old families can afford to be. When the Earl is turned out by "those liberal fellows" it is probable enough that Vivian may assist him in translating "*Aristophanes*." In town they live in St. James's square. There is a young lady and an elderly lady, very useful to the story, which would be mad, in fact, without them, but who have "no character at all." There is a Rev. Coningsby, who ever talks high Toryism and high Church; many young fellows, literary and political, clever and vain, and all Tory; but, after all, the principal character is Guy Luttrell, a poet, states-

man, and traveller—a fancy taken from Lord Houghton and Mr. Layard. He seems to have a finger in everybody's pie, and is at last rewarded with a plum for himself, in the shape of Vivian's hand. He also is a Tory, and under-secretary to the Earl; but at length he has doubts in favour of Liberalism; the indignant young Tory lady discards him, and he goes to Africa. In solitude and in the dead of night he hears his own name four times over in Vivian's voice; and in the very last line of vol. iii. he hastens home. Whether love or politics conquers is not explained; but the incident is not unlike that strange hearing of the bell in "*Editha*." No matter. We like the daring which could make even "the daughter of a hundred Earls" reject the man of her choice on account of a little conscientious wavering of opinion. Mrs. Coningsby would have twisted her Young England lord and master round her little finger, opinions and all, and got a better place for him. But Mr. Disraeli firmly believes that women govern, whilst Mr. Collins still has faith in the strength of men. With a gipsy who curses, and a fashionable lady who goes mad and does a murder and a suicide, the variety of character may be considered complete. It ranges from an English Earl down to a French valet, and anything above or below those extremes would make but little difference. Mr. Collins may be said to have touched and adorned all.

It is not difficult to give the characteristics of "*Who is the Heir?*" As a closely-written story it is unsatisfactory; but in our opinion it is quite as strong as a story should ever be. Written monthly, it has suffered much, though in all probability the author has not fallen far short of his idea. He intended no Paul Marchmonts, nor Lady Audleys, nor groom marriage—no Wandsworth Aurora Floyds. He intended a sufficiently powerful plot to carry the reader through a literary and political combination. He has succeeded excellently. In novel reading "the moving accident is not my trade." Let us have as much clever essay writing and dialogue as possible. It is pleasant to roam through this world of books like a child at a feast—now a serious incident, now a sweet girl, a little philosophy, a little flirtation, a broken heart, a bunch of flowers. There are people who give dinners in which one omitted dish would ruin all; and there have been too many novels where the same thing may be said of the incidents, and the general result is a ruined taste. It is being deprived of liberty. It is penal servitude. By all means, let some of our writers of fiction adopt the digressive plan. It may not please everybody's taste; but, where it suits, be it known that Mr. Collins is a master of it. He dashes off into excellent dialogue, and is always poetical when not political. He is best in the former; for his pages are sprinkled with specimens, "original and selected," of the best kind. But in politics he fails, because, although all through in favour of high Toryism, he in no way explains what he would do, or what he would have. Mr. Disraeli had a kind of shadowy something to advocate; but here there is not even a shadow. Would Mr. Collins upset the forced measures of 1828, 1832, and 1846? It seems impossible; but, if he wants Toryism in power, surely he may be content. If he means Conservatism, he has but to go down to both Houses, take away both bangles, and say "you are no Parliament." For, surely, if Conservatism be correct, neither House of Parliament can be wanted. But if by Toryism he means no more than a chivalrous admiration for feudal splendours, of which nothing but the "blood" survives in these days, we are glad enough to join with him and laugh with him, and assure him that even half a dozen reform bills hence, Church and State will be in no danger.

For the rest, there are many qualities in these volumes for which they will be admired. The quotations are managed with all the ease of Mr. Disraeli's early days, when he mentioned "my friend" (a public man) by name. Thus, my friend, Mr. Sala; my friend, Mr. Cayley, who is going to contest Scarborough on Tory principles (who did, and lost). Mrs. Harris is given as an authority, and the Duke of Sutherland is made to assist at a fire; but, above all, the reverence for Robert Browning shows itself in every page. The *Funds* and *Browning*—may they go hand-in-hand!—are the only two things which appear to be quoted daily.

And now before parting with the pleasantest novel of some seasons—from the comedy and the tragedy, from the *Rapier* and the *Keelin*, from "my friend the editor of the *Owl*," the love-making and the literature—let one question be answered, if possible. How can two English ladies of the highest birth run away from their husbands for years without being discovered, and without questions being asked? And what would Mr. Disraeli and Mr. Guy Livingstone think of such high-born English ladies?

The Story of the Great March. From the Diary of a Staff Officer By Brevet Major GEORGE WAID NICHOLS, Aide-de-Camp to General Sherman. With a Map and Illustrations. London: Sampson Low and Co.

The "*Great March*," the story of which is told in this volume, is, of course, Sherman's "march down to the sea" at Savannah, and up again through the Carolinas. The work is principally in the form of a diary, which the author tells us, was written "during the mid-day rest of the army, on fences and stumps by the wayside, by the light of the camp-fires in the night bivouac, in cities or towns where we halted, whenever and wherever a moment's release from pressing official duties afforded leisure to jot down the fleeting impressions of our long and wonderful march." Performed under such circumstances, Major Nichols's work is very creditable indeed. Of course, as will readily be understood, this book is not a history of the campaign, in the proper sense of the word; but it contains valuable materials for such a history. We have the daily occurrences—so far, at least, as they came under the author's notice, supplemented by information which his position on the staff enabled him to acquire afterwards—noted down in chronological order; we have guesses at, and occasionally glimpses of, the General's plans; and we have the results achieved duly chronicled. We have, in addition, the record of Major Nichols's personal experience and observations, and a good many of his private opinions—which latter element, perhaps, might have been omitted with advantage. The Major's statements, however, and especially his opinions, must be taken *cum grano salis*; for our gallant author is quite an enthusiast—first, for his leader, General Sherman, whom he evidently regards as the greatest strategist of either ancient or modern times; next, for "the Union" and "the old flag," which he cannot conceive it possible for any man to regard with different feelings from his own; and, thirdly, for the negro, whom he positively declares to be the best portion of the population of the Southern States. When we have said this, it will readily be understood that Major Nichols has not a superfluity of philosophy in him, and our caution as to making allowances for the colouring which his enthusiasm gives to his narrative and opinions will not be deemed unnecessary.

The narrative begins with the departure of Sherman and his army from Atlanta on the march through Georgia to Savannah; continues the record of events in the subsequent march through South and North Carolina up to Raleigh, the capital of the latter State; and concludes with the surrender of Johnston, and the close of the campaign and the war, to which result Sherman's operations undoubtedly mainly contributed. In the course of this narrative there are, of course, many opportunities afforded for recording stirring incidents and interesting, and often ludicrous, experiences; and of these the author has availed himself with much readiness, and occasionally with a quaint dry humour which adds greatly to the interest and amusing qualities of his work. The gallant Major, however, has one sore point—the contempt in which the Southerners held the Yankees; and this gives a tone to the character of the book. This scorn of the Southerner for the Northerner must have been bitterly felt indeed, since it sours and distorts the views of even so genial a gentleman as Major Nichols. Then the South Carolinians must have been especial sinners in this respect, for our author can see good in neither the country nor the people; and throughout the whole work there runs a note of gloom and exultation at the thought of punishing the "cowardly and selfish State" for the prominent part she took in bringing about the secession of the South. This bitter resentment of old insults even carries the Major so far as to

talk of the Southerners—not South Carolinians only—"having forfeited their boasted character for chivalry and courage," and this in the face of the fact that a comparative handful of Southerners, with of course some South Carolinians among them, beat and baffled McClellan, Burnside, Hooker, and even Grant himself, on many a bloody field. It is, perhaps, natural to find Major Nichols—apparently echoing General Sherman—placing Johnston in a higher rank of military capacity than Lee, for, of course, it adds to one's own glory to have beaten the ablest General on the opposing side; but it should be remembered that at the same time that Johnston never won a battle, and that Lee gained two or three victories for every defeat he sustained. In connection with this matter, it may be noted that Major Nichols is occasionally curiously inconsistent with himself. For instance, on page 139, he says, "Had Johnston remained in command, Sherman would never have come to Savannah, and of course would not have been able to march through South Carolina. For our part, we should still have gone to Savannah, but might have been longer on the way." These sentences follow each other in the order in which we have quoted them; and how the statement in the one can be reconciled with that in the other is more than we can quite perceive. Again, Major Nichols's enthusiasm for the negro leads him to make some rather startling statements. For instance, at pages 61 and 65, he describes an interview at Savannah between Mr. Stanton and certain black preachers in these terms:—

A memorable interview has taken place here between the Secretary of War and the coloured clergymen of the city. These good men represented almost every religious denomination. I was present during a portion of the interview, which occurred at General Sherman's headquarters, and I shall never forget the impressive spectacle.

The black clergymen, fifteen or twenty in number, were grouped about the room, sitting and standing. With all due respect for the clerical profession, I doubt if twenty white ministers of the Gospel could have been called together so suddenly out of one of our Northern cities (certainly not in the South) who could represent so much common-sense and intelligence as these men. Nor would an average score of clergymen present an array of nobler heads. In an artistic sense, the negroes would certainly have the advantage of colour.

Now, the white clergymen of America must either be far inferior to the gentlemen of the cloth whom we are accustomed to meet in this effete, old-world portion of the globe, or the negro preachers of Georgia must be much above the average of any "coloured gentlemen" we ever see in Europe.

But we have found enough fault with the Major's work—some of the ideas expressed in which we hope he will yet see reason to modify, or how can there ever be a restored "union" between North and South?—and shall conclude with saying that we have enjoyed the perusal of the work greatly, which, making due allowance for the author's enthusiasm and for the fact that he wrote under the influence of all the excitement of the war, cannot fail to be both instructive and amusing. Throughout the work are sprinkled sketches of the principal of Sherman's lieutenants—all of whom, by-the-by, must have been first-rate fellows, for there does not appear to have been a bad officer, bad soldier, or bad man in the whole army, as painted by Major Nichols, at all events. One of these officers, General Howard, who was Sherman's principal subordinate and the leader of the right wing of the army, but of whom comparatively little is known in Europe, is thus described:—

General Howard, who has command of our right wing during this campaign, has often been called the Havelock of the army; and the parallel is not unnatural, for both the hero of the Indian campaign and our own distinguished General will rank in history as perfect types of the Christian soldier. General Howard is a man whose religious convictions are intense, positive, entering into and colouring every event of his life. When exposed to fire, there is no braver man living than he. He does not go into action in the Cromwellian spirit, singing psalms and uttering prayers, but with a cool and quiet determination which is inspired by a lofty sense of a sacred duty to be performed. His courage is a realisation of the strength of a spiritual religion rather than a physical qualification. The General is constantly censured for rashly exposing himself to the fire of the enemy; but it is difficult to say whether such censure is just or not, for every commander of a corps or an army should himself be the best judge of the necessities of the hour. Napoleon at the bridge of Arcola was an example.

History shows that more battles have been lost or gained at heavy cost, because the commanders did not know the nature of the ground they were fighting over, than for any other reason. Such a criticism can never be applied to General Howard. He sees the whole field of operations, and has an admirable tactical knowledge of the best use to be made of its advantages. It is a high compliment to his worth as a man and a soldier that he should have been chosen by General Sherman to the command of the right wing of the army. General Sherman may not be a religious man in the sense that Howard is, but he valued and respected Howard all the more for his Christian faith and practice. In the direction of a march, in the accomplishment of an arduous or dangerous duty, when speed and certainty were required, he knew that Howard would never fail him. In the record of four campaigns, there stands no instance of his dereliction from duty; while many a march and battle-field bear witness to his energy, perseverance, soldierly skill, and manly courage.

Howard lost his right arm at Malvern Hill during the bloody Peninsular campaign. There is wondrous pathos in an empty sleeve; but regret for Howard's affliction ceases when one looks into that kindly face, with its loving eye and generous mouth—a face full of patience, gentleness, and manly resolve.

It is a beautiful tribute to General Howard and his professed Christian belief, that his influence upon those about him is positive. There is but little use of liquor, and a most gratifying absence of profanity, about his headquarters. I shall never forget his gentle rebuke to a soldier, who, in the very presence of death, was swearing in a decided manner: "Don't swear so, my man. You may be killed at any moment. Surely you do not wish to go into the next world with dreadful oaths upon your lips."

The map and illustrations to the work are excellent; the engravings, especially, are exceedingly well printed, and greatly add to the elegance of an otherwise well got-up volume.

Scraps and Sketches Gathered Together. By Sir LASCELLES WRAXALL, Bart. 2 vols. W. H. Allen and Co.

These volumes come with a melancholy interest. Sir Lascelles Wraxall, foremost amongst the most pleasing and industrious writers of these days, died somewhat suddenly, at an early age, with much good work accomplished and promise of so much more, never now to be fulfilled, as to induce deep regret from those who knew him not as well as from those who did. These "*Scraps and Sketches*," gathered together by himself, have the air of a legacy. They are valuable; and they seem to be paid for at a high price, as the loss comes hand in hand with the gain.

The papers will be found of the most reasonable description ever given to magazine literature. They are varied greatly. At first we find several chapters devoted to the author's experiences in the East when attached to the Turkish Contingent, during the Crimean War. Ten years have given them all the value of age; they are once more fresh reading; and, as they were written on the spot, may be relied on for accuracy and personal value. The chapters on the various gambling-places on the Continent are of an older date, but Baden and Homburg, having but one characteristic, do not alter, and descriptions of them are as good to-day as they were a dozen years since. There are many pleasant stories and fierce stories. "*Wanted a Wife*," an amusing sketch; "*Scoring the King*," a useful piece of advice; "*A Dark Story*," terrible and comic, which should have been described as adapted from Paul Louis Courier; with "*A Sad Story*," sad, indeed, and pathetically told. Amongst quaint papers, "*A Night on a Whale*" has that curious tone of truth which some few writers have been able to give to the most brazen fiction. Others have vitality about them which charms the reader. There are thirty-eight chapters, and none will be found disappointing unless the subject of Paris may be considered "used up" for a century or two. We recommend these volumes as excellent reading, especially at a time when the mind does not want too much at a stretch, and when the "mind," being on the sea-sands all day, cannot get it if it would.

BRISTOL INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.—The Bristol Industrial Exhibition was opened on Tuesday. It had been arranged that Lord Palmerston was to open the exhibition, and great disappointment was felt when it was announced that he had become too ill to attend. Mr. Gladstone and Lord Stanley were applied to in succession, but both declined; and in the emergency the Mayor of the town undertook the task, and acquitted himself in a perfectly satisfactory manner. The day was partially obscured as a holiday throughout the town, and the ceremonies proper to the occasion were witnessed by a great number of spectators.



THE OLD QUARTER OF CAIRO DURING THE PREVALENCE OF CHOLERA: THE AMBULANCE OF THE FRENCH CONSULATE.

THE CHOLERA AT CAIRO.

THE cholera, which began this year near its old home in the East, has been, as usual, a constant topic of conversation and newspaper comment; and, though there has been no reason for a panic, parochial boards and officers of health have sufficiently neglected their duty to make the subject productive of no little anxiety in this country.

Happily, however, the virulence of the disease has been greatly mitigated, even in those places where it has been most prevalent; and at Cairo the precautions, or rather remedies, which have been adopted have had some effect, although it may be doubted whether there will be any real safety against this or similar epidemics until more complete sanitary regulations are enforced and the large assemblages of pilgrims in foul camps and tainted dwellings are abolished. Now that the time of trial is nearly over and the disease is wearing out, the people of Cairo have time to look round them; and, while they mourn for the havoc which has been already made, resolve to set their city in better order.

Our Engraving represents the scene presented in the old quarter of the city during the terrible period through which it has lately passed—a period in which the inhabitants seemed almost paralysed with terror and the very streets were distinguished by a silence which was almost that of death or of people waiting to see to whom death would next come.

Abandoning their ordinary business, the more wealthy portion of the population fled before the plague, and those who remained placed themselves in voluntary quarantine in their own houses. The streets were deserted, the shops closed, and scarcely anything was heard but the rolling of the wheels of the ambulances for carrying the dead, while, as the number of vehicles was insufficient, camels were also brought to help to bear the burden of the dead, and might be seen kneeling at the doors to receive the coffins, which they slowly carried to the place of sepulchre. At night the same sounds were heard, mingled with those wild and melancholy cries and lamentations which form a part of Arab mourning.

Above the hopeless fatalism of many of the people, however, there has not been wanting the steadfast courage which looks beyond destiny, and works in faith and duty.

France may well congratulate herself on the efficiency in such a crisis of her representative at Cairo, who, seconded by some of the principal inhabitants, took upon himself the duty from the very first of establishing a bureau of help, and ambulances for the sick in the same locality. There, under the authority of the French flag, the suffering people received timely assistance without distinction of creed, and the arrival of Dr. Tournes served not only

to encourage his countrymen, but also those who looked to him for succour. Meanwhile the Consul was every day employed in visiting the various districts, in making inquiries, enforcing sanitary regulations, and even in personal attendance on the sick; and the French mission, under the command of Colonel Mircher, did good service in performing duty at the ambulances, which were so necessary for the removal of the patients. The expenses of these organisations were defrayed by voluntary subscription, and, from first to last, the courage and devotedness of the Consul and his assistants served greatly to mitigate the awful calamity. The Consul has, now that the plague is stayed, received an address conveying the public thanks, signed by all the principal inhabitants of the city.

TOTAL DESTRUCTION BY FIRE OF ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

By far the largest and most disastrous conflagration which has ever occurred in Sydney, New South Wales, happened on the 29th of June, and resulted in the total destruction of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral. This noble edifice, which was one of the finest examples of church architecture to be found in the colony, is now a blackened ruin. The cost of the building, it is thought, could not

be less than £50,000; but from its hallowed associations and sacred memories it was of priceless value to thousands of worshippers of the Roman Catholic communion.

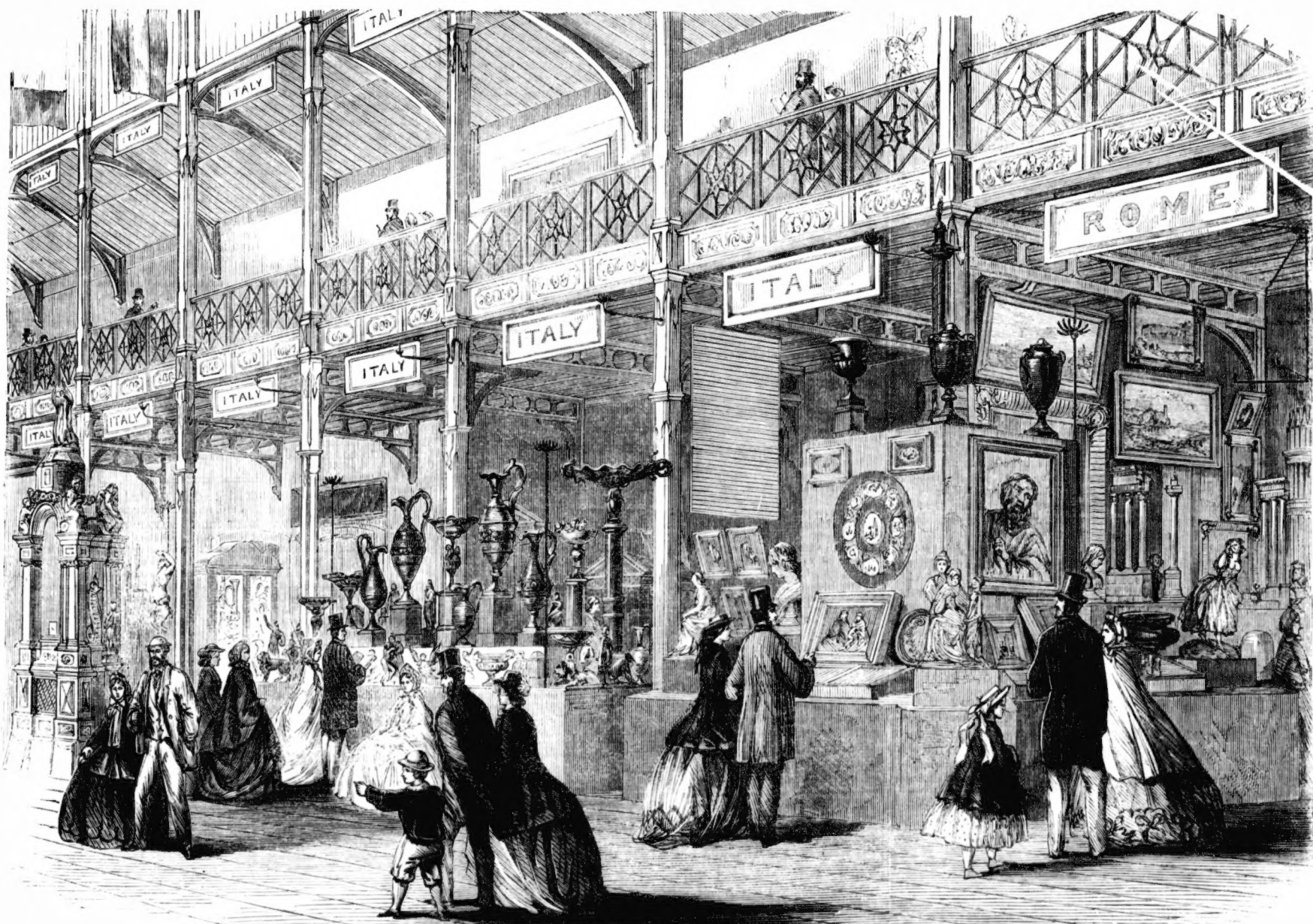
The cathedral was not insured. There were several most valuable pictures by the old masters, which were hung about the altar and in other parts, none of which have been saved. One painting alone—representing the death of St. Benedict—was valued at £1000. The chalices in the sacristy were got out, as also were all the more valuable vestments; these latter being estimated at £2000. The Archbishop's papers, and the other important records and deeds which were in the clerk's office, were also saved from destruction. The Archbishop's residence and those of the other dignitaries of the cathedral were hastily stripped of their furniture, which was removed into the garden, where it was placed under the protection of the police.

On Thursday, June 29, was celebrated the religious festival of St. Peter and St. Paul, and there was benediction in the cathedral in the evening. The service began at seven o'clock, the congregation separated at about a quarter past eight o'clock, and the building was locked up soon afterwards. Most of the priests were engaged in a service which was held about the same time in St. Benedict's Church, Paramatta-street. The lights of the cathedral, except only the lamp of the sanctuary, which is always left burning, and is suspended in front of the altar, were all put out. Various suppositions have been started to account for the conflagration. At the date of our last account the fire was the subject of investigation.

So far as could be learned, it seems that the cathedral was suddenly filled with fire, and the flames burst forth almost simultaneously in different parts of the edifice. The greatest body of fire in the first instance was at the east end of the cathedral; and from this it was thought by many that the combustion began there; but the circumstance of the fire being fiercest in that direction may have been owing to the prevalence of a strong westerly wind. The fire was first seen soon after nine o'clock, and by half-past nine the whole of the roof of the building was covered with flame. Most of the roof was composed of shingles, which were quickly burnt through, but the rafters and other timbers burnt for a while longer; and, as the outlines of the stately structure were vividly defined and skirted with flame, the sight was one of unsurpassed but terrible grandeur. The cold, frosty air blowing on the rafters caused them to glitter with resplendent brilliancy; and the flames, like innumerable serpents of fire, hissed and crackled along every part of the building, and, as they swept from one interior fitting to another, assumed most singular shapes. The interior of the cathedral was a



DESTRUCTION BY FIRE OF ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.



THE ITALIAN COURT IN THE DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

vast furnace of fire, which glowed with intense heat; and the wind and flame roaring through the sacred pile, and the timbers crashing from above, made a noise which somewhat resembled the waves beating along the seashore as heard from afar.

Of course it was utterly impossible to arrest the progress of the flames, which, fanned by the breeze, continued to rage with unchecked fierceness until the woodwork of the edifice had all been consumed. The rafters and timbers of the roof were all destroyed by ten o'clock, but so great was the mass of fuel in the inside that the building was illuminated all through the night by the fire, which for a long time was unapproachable. All efforts to quench the fire in the cathedral being perfectly futile, nothing in that direction was attempted. The clerk's office, the sacristy, and the range of apartments for the clergy leading to the Vicar-General's office, were soon ignited by the sparks, and to this block of buildings the firemen first turned their attention. Portions of the roofs were stripped of the shingles, and streams of water were showered on them. The sacristy and the clerk's office were completely destroyed, as also was a part of the buildings occupied by the clergy. Had not the woodwork in the upper parts of the cathedral been consumed so rapidly, the Archbishop's residence, St. Mary's Seminary, and a number of other buildings must all have been burnt down, seeing that the ashes fell around so thickly.

St. Mary's Cathedral had only lately been enlarged to a considerable extent, and within its walls were collected works of art on sacred subjects, by some of the greatest masters. The magnificent organ, erected in the south gallery, cost originally upwards of £2000, which of course was destroyed in the general wreck. The rapidity with which the fire traversed the interior of the building is attributable to the mass of polished woodwork within it. The pillars by which the roof was supported were of ironbark, cased in polished cedar, and the ceiling, which was an imitation of the vaulted groined ceiling of the Middle Ages, was also of polished cedar. The ceiling, therefore, in many places touched the roof, and, as a consequence, no sooner did the fire reach the former, than it burst through the dry shingle portion of the latter. The roof of that portion of the cathedral lately built was slated, and dense volumes of smoke issued from under it, and for a time enveloped the structure.

The foundation-stone of St. Mary's Cathedral was laid on the 29th of October, 1829, by the late Father Therry, and we are informed that the 29th of June was the anniversary of its consecration by his Grace Archbishop (then Dr.) Polding.

THE ITALIAN COURT IN THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION.

THE space allotted to the Italian collection in the Dublin International Exhibition occupies the eastern portion of the transept and galleries from the grand entrance hall to the British department. In the first section we find ores of copper, lead, and nickel, and pieces of auriferous quartz. There is, strange to say, a nugget of native gold found in the mountainous district near Genoa. Many facts such as these combine to prove that the mineral resources of Italy have never been properly valued. Some magnificent slabs of statuary marble will attract admiration; and there are samples of lignite and sulphur, of marls and ochres. In the second section are contained specimens of chemical preparations and general products. There are pigments from Leghorn, oils from Lucca, and salts from Naples. Amongst substances used as food are chocolate, coffee, creams, and condiments. Of course there are all varieties of Italian wine—lambardo, muscato, charruse, white and red calabrian, sweet and dry nobioto—olive oils, and cheeses and biscuits, Bolognese and Florentine sausages, Cremona pickles, caudied fruits from Naples, and preserved fruits of every kind grown in Italy. The Royal Enological Commission of Turin exhibits wines on behalf of no fewer than twenty-one manufacturers. The Royal tobacco manufactures at Lucca and Bologna send excellent specimens of their products in light tobaccos and cigars, and some of the principal makers of liqueurs have samples of curaço, maraschino, and arrack. In the next section are classified substances used in the textile manufactures. Here will be found several exhibitors of cotton grown in Italy within the last two years. The question has been seriously considered by the present Government of Italy whether it is not practicable to grow cotton with profit in many large districts of the country; and as a proof of the suitability of the climate and the soil, especially Sicily, reference may here be made to the collection of 157 samples grown in the Botanical Gardens of Catania, and exhibited here by Professor Francisco Turnabene.

In military engineering the Italians are not so far behind other countries as might be imagined. There is a Lombard firearm manufactory, and it contributes several examples of good workmanship, consisting chiefly of rifles and revolvers. A Florentine manufacturer has a revolver of fourteen shots, seven being of a large and seven of a small diameter. In ironmongery and general hardware the exhibition is worthy of notice. Amongst the manufacturers of musical instruments the most notable is Antonio Farnio, of Naples, who has an improved piano-melodion, to be played with a single keyboard; Manzoni, of Milan, who has sent two violins which are provided with a new form of attachment for the handles; and Pelliti, of Milan, in whose large collection of brass wind instruments is to be found one invention which can produce as much sound as an entire band, and might be made an important auxiliary in the production of great orchestral works. In silks and velvets there is a very fine display. In embroidery, Italian work has always been remarkable for beauty; and abundant proof of this fact is afforded by the alto-relievo embroidery on gold and silk ground of Antonio Biella, of Milan, and the beautiful brocade of Martini, of Milan, which are distinguished by admirable taste in design.

Nothing could be more graceful and attractive than the bronzes exhibited by Ceriani, of Milan. Of these by far the prettiest is a copy from Magin's celebrated statue of the Reading Girl, which created so great a sensation in the Exhibition of 1862. Almost equal in merit to this is a bronze bust of Dante, taken from the work of the sculptor Velu. Some unique specimens of lava and coral work, several rare collections of cameos, and a very admirable example of the decorative use of German silver, are found in the same section. Dr. Billotti, of Turin, shows some beautiful water-colour miniatures executed upon marble. In the section allotted to ceramic manufactures, china, porcelain, and earthenware, there is a very excellent display. The terra-cotta work of Andrea Boni, of Milan, forms one of the most conspicuous objects in the collection, and illustrates the perfection to which this description of art-manufacture can be brought. The pedestals, cornices, and monumental designs have been admirably conceived and executed, and the statuettes of Garibaldi and Galileo, as well as the symbolical figures of Italy and Agriculture, are specially deserving of commendation. Naples has a creditable representative in Signor Giustiniani, who shows vases in several different styles, and vessels designed in imitation of Pompeian mosaic. Mollica, of the same city, has a larger, though not more attractive, collection of similar articles; but his terra-cotta figures and designs on tiles after the Pompeian frescoes should not be passed over without acknowledging their singular merit as works of art. Two of the exhibitors show splendid mosaic tiling. In the section of furniture and upholstery there is notable evidence of the old Italian eminence in graceful designs and skilful execution—witness the mosaic Pietre dure table of Bazante, of Florence, and the unique wood carvings of Calvi, of Milan. An ebony cabinet elaborately inlaid with ivory and decorated with a copy of a picture entitled "The Dance of Cupid," will be admired as it deserves. Near this the eye is arrested by a marvellous carving in walnut-wood, in which a boar-hunt is represented with extraordinary vigour and accuracy.

CHALKER, LONDON SLANG FOR MILKMAN.—A few days since I had planned a day's excursion for my family into the country. On my wife expressing to the maid her fears that the weather would be bad, "Yes," said the girl, "the chalker—I beg pardon, ma'am, I mean the milkman—said it would rain all day." This expressive synonym for a London milkman has never, I believe, yet found its way into any slang dictionary.—Notes and Queries.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE great musical news of the day is the production of Liszt's oratorio of "St. Elizabeth," at Pesth. It is known that Liszt is a great friend of Pius IX., that he is devoted to the Papacy, and that he has recently become an abbe. How, after this, is Liszt to get on with his friend Wagner, who, so far from being attached to the Pope and to the Conservative order of things, is an advanced Republican of the reddest possible hue? To be, remembering what the Opera has hitherto been, it seems almost inexplicable that an operatic composer should be a thoroughgoing Republican. Doubtless, there is nothing essentially antagonistic between Republicanism and the Opera; but, in Europe, we generally associate Republicanism with furious and unavailing attempts to establish a republic; and music, like other arts, cannot be cultivated with advantage in times of tumult and turmoil. Moreover, the utility of opera is not apparent at first sight to the vulgar eye; and modern democratic Republicans are, generally speaking, either careless about music or detest it. Verdi, it is true, sits in the Italian Chamber as a member of the extreme party, and Beethoven was a confirmed Republican, and, according to a well-known anecdote, struck out a dedication to Napoleon prefixed to one of his works as soon as he heard that his former idol had assumed Imperial power. But, on the other hand, Verdi when, three years ago, he wrote "La forza del destino" for the Imperial Theatre at St. Petersburg, was not too extreme in his views to accept an honorarium of some thousands of pounds from the truculent and tyrannical Czar. No Republican government, no Constitutional monarch would have given him as many pence. Then, again, Beethoven met with no support from the people. There were no "popular concerts" in his day. He had to look for patronage to the crowned heads of Europe, and for appreciation as well as assistance of all kinds to Bohemian magnates, Russian ambassadors and princes, and generally to the aristocratic society of the Austrian capital—the Lichnowskis, Leitenskis, Razoumoffskys, and Galitzins—whose names to many of us are now only known from their appearing so often on Beethoven's title-pages.

Our attention has been called to a supposed error in a recent article, in which, after remarking that English audiences, when they wish a song or piece of music to be repeated, call out *encore*, while French audiences express the same desire by calling out *bis*, we assert that our English cry, *encore*, is not taken from the French, but that it is "an abbreviation and corruption of the Italian *ancora*." In the first place, we are told that *encore* is not an "abbreviation" of *ancora*; and it is quite true that the two words contain each the same number of letters. Nevertheless, *encore* is a word of two, *ancora* a word of three syllables. The fact is, *encore* ought never to be written at all. Our operatic audiences, when the King's Theatre was first opened for the performance of the Italian lyric drama, used to call out *ancora*; but the word, in the course of time, became "abbreviated and corrupted" into *encore*; finally, our theatrical critics mistook *ancore* (of which the true origin had escaped them) for the French word *encore*. We repeat that the French equivalent for our *encore* is *bis*. It seems to us, then, that we cannot have adopted from France an expression which the French themselves do not use in the sense in which our English audiences employ it. On the other hand, we have positive proof that *ancora* was a well-known operatic cry in England at the beginning of the eighteenth century. Our evidence is contained in the following passage from No. 323 of the *Spectator*:—"Went to the opera. I did not see Mr. Froth till the beginning of the second act. Mr. Froth talked to a gentleman in a black wig; bowed to a lady in the front box. Mr. Froth and his friend clapped Nicolini in the third act. Mr. Froth cried out *ancora*."

The opening of Covent Garden Theatre by the association irreverently called the "Royal English Pantomime Company" has been postponed until November. The pre-pantomimic season of the "Royal English Opera" (which is the real title of the enterprise in question) was not very successful last year, and we believe the experience of Miss Louisa Payne and Mr. Harrison at Covent Garden, for several years in succession, showed that very little money was to be made by giving performances of English opera, unsupported by harlequin, columbine, clown, and pantaloons. We regret this state of things, and consider it disgraceful to our taste as a musical nation, or rather, as a nation of musical pretensions. Hitherto, it is true, English opera has never had a fair chance; though we doubt whether during our time a better chance than it has already had will ever be afforded it. An English opera without Mr. Sims Reeves and Mr. Santley is an absurdity, though it would be equally an absurdity for those excellent singers to accept engagements that do not suit them simply on the ground that they are offered to them by a company which calls itself emphatically "English."

At the Royal Italian Opera the great novelty of next year is, we are told, to be Gounod's "Romeo and Juliet." The principal part in this work is said to have been written specially for Mlle. Adeline Patti. That can hardly be the case, seeing that "Romeo and Juliet" is to be produced in the first instance at the Théâtre Lyrique in Paris. We can quite understand, however, that when the opera is brought out at Covent Garden M. Gounod will be glad to see Mlle. Adeline Patti in the part of the heroine.

M. Blaze de Bury, in one of his recent contributions to the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, stated that the chief situation in Meyerbeer's "Africaine" was to be found in an English drama entitled "The Law of Java," written some forty years ago by George Colman the younger, and furnished with an overture and incidental music by Bishop. A contemporary has shown that there is little more resemblance between "The Law of Java" and "L'Africaine" than between Monmouth and Macedon. There is a upas-tree in Colman's play, and there is a manchenilla in Meyerbeer's opera; but in Colman's play the upas-tree is not seen, and no heroine dies beneath it; whereas in Meyerbeer's opera the death of the heroine beneath the manchenilla takes place in the middle of the stage, and is the great "situation" in the piece.

A FEMALE IMPOSTOR.

SOME members of the Manchester police force have been engaged for about ten days in fruitless efforts to recover property which would appear not to have been stolen, for the simple reason that it never existed except in the imagination of an adventuress. Late in the afternoon of Monday, the 4th inst., a young woman, of ladylike appearance and good address, called at the detective department, and seemed to be in a state of distress and exhaustion. This excited the sympathy of the officers, and entirely deceived them as to the character of the visitor. She said she came to Manchester on the evening of the previous Saturday, by the London express, arriving about 10¹⁵; that she gave her three boxes of luggage into the custody of a porter at the London-road station, and that after taking them to the left-luggage office he removed them to another part of the station, and gave her a ticket for which he charged 1s. 6d., telling her the goods would be returned to her at any time on the production of the ticket. Having left the service of the Rev. Mr. Ford, of Whitechurch, in Shropshire, she had come to Manchester hoping to better her situation, but was quite a stranger to the place, and had no friends or connection in it; she therefore wished to leave her property at the station while looking for an inn or lodging for the night. Walking down the incline towards Piccadilly, she stopped a young man and asked him if he could direct her to lodgings. Upon hearing her statement he took her to a respectable house in Boundary-street, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, where he was lodging himself, and his landlady consented to give the young woman an apartment. But on applying at the railway station on Monday for her boxes she was told that nothing was known of them. In the mean time she had lost her ticket. Upon this story being related at the police-office, Sergeant Spibey accompanied the young woman to the railway station, and Mr. Mason, the station-master, immediately summoned before him all the porters who had been on duty on the Saturday night, but the complainant was unable to identify any one of them. Every search was made in the station, and telegrams were sent in various directions, but without resulting in the slightest trace of the boxes. The apparently heartbroken young woman was in a state of alternate sobbing and fainting, and on returning to her lodgings the landlady and her neighbours evinced the greatest sympathy. Miss Stephens, as she called herself, said her father was a farmer, living at a place called The Rookery, on Lord Combermere's estate near Wrenbury, and that she had lived seven years in Mr. Ford's service. The police recommended her to write to her father and to Mr. Ford, and also to make out an inventory of her lost property. The result of this was her writing a very long list, closely filling about two sheets and a half of foolscap, detailing most minutely the various materials, pattern, and trimmings of some score of dresses, with mantles, capes, paletots, silk stays, and a miscellany of articles, including a

number of bibles, a "Pilgrim's Progress," "Robinson Crusoe," and "Thompson's Seasons." The young man who had first befriended her posted letters for her directed to Mr. Ford and Mr. Stephens, and in two or three days she professed to have received a reply from the clergyman, addressed "Miss Sarah Stephenson," but did not communicate to any one the nature of the contents. She remained at the house in Boundary-street until Wednesday week, seeming to be extremely unwell, and utterly overcome with grief. On that day, nothing having been heard of her property as the result of Sergeant Spibey's continued inquiries, and the young woman having no money to pay for her lodgings, she agreed to her landlady's proposal that they should go together to her father's, and they accordingly travelled to Wrenbury. At Crewe, during the interval of a change from one train to another, the young woman fainted, and restoratives had to be applied; but ultimately she recovered, and, on alighting at Wrenbury, led the way for about three miles across fields and through bylanes to a house which is actually called The Rookery. But in a lane near the house she told her companion that her mother was in delicate health, and that she did not wish to disturb her suddenly, and requested the lady to go and knock at the house door first. While the lady was complying with her request, Miss Stephens took the opportunity to give her the slip. The person who opened the house door could give no information of Farmer Stephens, or Stephenson, and, on the lady returning to look for her charge, she had vanished. An old woman in the lane had seen her running "as fast as her legs could carry her," in the direction of Market Drayton, and that is the last that has been heard of her. Her kind landlady had to make the best of her way back to Manchester with her empty purse, having paid the young woman's railway fare as well as her own. Miss Stephens is about twenty-two years of age, with a fresh, light complexion, flaxen hair, blue eyes, and a nose which the police are ungallant enough to term ugly. When last seen she had on a light brown dress, black cloth cloak, and light bonnet with a fall. The young woman told the police at first her loss amounted to £80; subsequently she said it would be £100.

RIVAL CLERGYMEN.

A VERY amusing correspondence between the Rev. T. S. Bonnin, Curate of Sculcoates; the Rev. J. Byron, Rector of Killingholme; and the Archbishop of York has just been published. Sculcoates Church is the place most generally favoured by those happy mortals who are desirous of being joined in holy wedlock. And, as Sculcoates owns a population of some 50,000 inhabitants, it is scarcely likely that Mr. Bonnin, who has to discharge, unaided, the clerical duties of the parish upon a miserable stipend from the non-resident Vicar, can personally ascertain the truth of the declarations of those who, professing to be residents in the parish, require the banns of marriage to be published in his church. It seems that some short time ago a certain Henry Morton and Harriett D. Sharpe, parishioners of Killingholme, had the banns of marriage published and were duly married in Sculcoates Church. Whereupon the Rev. Mr. Byron wrote a remonstrance to Mr. Bonnin, and threatened a report to the Archbishop. To this letter the Curate of Sculcoates gave a characteristic reply, saying, among other things:—

It is doubtless true that, from time immemorial, Sculcoates Church, simply from the convenience of its locality, may have often proved a *facile decessus matrimonio*, in cases when, from various reasons, whether legitimate or not, privacy may have been specially desirable. And it is from a presumed indifference on my part to the prevention of such marriages that I have been frequently taken to task, often in not very courteous language, by more than fifty fat incumbents in Holderness, the Fens, and the Wolds; their complaints, as in your case, invariably culminating in a proposed invocation of the mitre—to say nothing of a recent instance some miles beyond Lincoln, reaching its climax in a promised roar from the throat of that snoring dove, Convocation, in order to reduce me to their notions of canonical obedience. Now, without entering upon the merits of these grievances, let it suffice, once for all, to state that neither pastoral staff held in *terrorem*, nor roar, nor repetition of polite hint, once already received, of three months' incarceration as the due desert of my lack of vigilance in repelling other men's ewes and rams from my fold, shall ever compel me, week after week, as an ecclesiastical detective, bull's-eye in hand, to patrol this parish, from the Wiltshire Monument to the Scone Ferry Waterworks, and from the River Hull to the Cemetery, in order to ferret out some possible William and Mary who may prefer the alternative of committing matrimony in my church to committing sin within the vicinity of their own.

As, perhaps, was to be expected, Mr. Byron, after this letter, did complain to the Archbishop, who wrote to Mr. Bonnin, telling him that he had acted contrary to the law, as laid down by Lord Eldon, in not making proper inquiries, and asking him if he intended to resign his curacy. Mr. Bonnin replies to the Archbishop in a style which will make the hair stand on end of half the Curates in Yorkshire. He has no intention of resigning his curacy, he says. As to Lord Eldon, it only shows how intense historical evidence is, that nobody doubts his existence. He hopes that the celebrated description of a Curate as "a man who excites compassion, a learned man in a hovel, with sermons and saucypanes, lexicons and bacon, Hebrew books and ragged children," and "the man of purple, palaces, and preferment letting himself loose against this poor man of God" is a thing of the past. He protests against being selected as an exception to all the rest of the Hull clergy to make inquiries which nobody else does make; and he thus concludes:—

Considering, then, the incessant claims made in large towns on a clergyman's time—the repose he needs in keeping himself abreast with the demands of each returning Lord's Day, the visiting the sick, and other pressing duties—your Grace, I think, will pause before imposing upon him an additional task, the results of which are both uncertain, and entirely, if attained, incommensurate with the toil expended in order to realise them. The only alternative remaining to your Grace is to urge upon your town clergy, as gentlemen and men of honour, to guard as far as possible against all ecclesiastical irregularities, and resolutely henceforth to turn a deaf ear to all unworthy petty complaints from a class of men who can surely console themselves under their little village grievances by good port, comfortable retorties, pretty wives, fat ponies, an easy life, hunting, fishing, and shooting, instead of "reporting" them to your Grace, and thereby giving rise to such a profitless correspondence as this, which I hope may be the last inflicted on your Grace concerning "Marriages Over the Border and Across the Water."

The last letter published is an ominous one. It is from the non-resident Vicar of Sculcoates, and is thus communicated to the Archbishop by Mr. Bonnin himself:—

My Lord Archbishop,—I have this morning received a letter from my Vicar, the Rev. William Preston, informing me that he is in communication with your Grace respecting the withdrawal of my license previously to giving me the usual legal notice for leaving this curacy. I have simply acknowledged the receipt of his letter, and forwarded him a copy of the entire correspondence, printed by me for distribution among my friends, a duplicate of which accompanies this note.

I have the honour to remain your Grace's very obedient servant,

T. S. BONNIN.

JOHN CURRIE was convicted, at the Central Criminal Court, on Wednesday, of the murder of Major De Vere, and sentenced to be hanged.

LORD PALMERSTON AT EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.—Dugald Stewart's lectures on political economy were not published until many years after his death, when they were included in the library edition of his complete works, which Sir William Hamilton edited, until his death prevented the completion of the task. The erudite editor had some difficulty in procuring an authentic manuscript transcript of the lectures; for Stewart had never written them completely out, depending rather on extemporaneous prelection, assisted by somewhat scanty notes. The copy from which Sir William Hamilton's edition was actually printed was made up of the notes taken in the class-room by various of Stewart's students; and by far the most valuable assistance that Sir William derived in his editorial task was from the notebook of Lord Palmerston. He had taken down the lectures in short-hand, and then written them out in full. Indeed, we believe that the larger bulk of the lectures, as they are now published, were taken verbatim by the printers from manuscript in Lord Palmerston's handwriting. This one circumstance is proof enough of the high esteem in which Palmerston, when a young man at Edinburgh, held Stewart's lectures, and of the considerable influence which they must have exerted in the formation of his mental character.—*Mr. Gladstone's Life of Palmerston*.

STAND IMPROVEMENTS.—An Act of Parliament has just been printed, entitled "The St. Clement Danes Improvement Act," under which some extensive alterations will be made in the Strand, and a number of houses in Wyche-street removed. It recites that portions in the Strand and Wyche-street are inconveniently narrow, whereby the traffic along those streets is greatly impeded, and it would be to the public advantage that the same should be widened and improved, and that other improvements should be carried out upon and in connection with the property lying between the streets; and that, to effect such widenings and improvements, the houses now standing on the north side of the Strand and the south side of Wyche-street should be pulled down, as well as those in Holywell-street, and other and more convenient buildings erected thereon. The Act was passed for the purpose, and a company incorporated to carry out the improvements, which are to be completed within four years. The compulsory purchase of property is limited to two years. The plans and directions of the property required have been deposited with the Clerk of the Peace. The Strand Hotel is not to be interfered with in the proposed alterations.

CHEAP SATURDAY TO MONDAY RETURN
TICKETS are issued every SATURDAY AFTERNOON and EVENING from London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway to BRIGHTON, Worthing, Littlehampton, Bognor, Chichester, Portsmouth, Ryde, Southampton, Eastbourne, St. Leonards, Hastings, &c. For particulars, see Time-tables of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway.

THE EXCURSION SEASON of the LONDON, BRIGHTON, and SOUTH-COAST RAILWAY will CLOSE on MONDAY, SEPT. 23.

MR. ALFRED MELLON'S CONCERTS.
EVERY EVENING AT EIGHT—ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT-GARDEN. The Concerts will POSITIVELY TERMINATE on SATURDAY NEXT, SEPT. 3, at 8 o'clock. The last night (but five), an Author night, on which occasion Miss Louisa Pyne will appear (for that evening only). On Thursday next, the last Classical Night, selections from the works of the great masters. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, Miscellaneous nights. On Saturday next, Sept. 30, Last Night of the Concerts, and Benefit of Mr. Alfred Mellon. Conductor, Mr. Alfred Mellon. Admission, One Shilling.

STODARE.—174TH REPRESENTATION.
THEATRE OF MYSTERY, EGYPTIAN HALL, Marvels of Magic and Ventriloquism, by Colonel STODARE.—The Real Indian Basket Trick and Instantaneous Growth of Flower Trees, as introduced, for the first time in this country, on Easter Monday, April 17, 1865, by Colonel Stodare, and only performed by him and the Indian Magicians, EVERY EVENING at Eight (Saturday included), also on Wednesday and Saturday Afternoons at Three. Rehearsals at 10 o'clock, 33, Old Bond-street, and Box-office, Egyptian Hall, Admission, 1s, 2s, and 3s.
"Almost miraculous."—*Vide "Times," April 18, 1865.*

CHANG, THE GREAT FYCHOW GIANT, and Suite, at the EGYPTIAN HALL, Piccadilly. First Levée, on Monday Evening next, the 25th, from 8 till 10 o'clock.

MME. LEMMENS-SHERRINGTON will SING "The only I love" (F. Abt.), and "Mark! the guests sing" (H. Smart), at the Egyptian Hall, Sept. 15, at 8 o'clock; at Taitton, Sept. 18; at Weston-super-Mare, Sept. 19; at Cardiff, Sept. 20; at Swansea, Sept. 21; at Haverfordwest, Sept. 22; at Tenby, Sept. 23; at Leicester, Sept. 25; at Nottingham, Sept. 26; at Sheffield, Sept. 27.

THE ONLY I LOVE. Song. (F. Abt.) 2s. 6d. Free for 16 stamps.

HARK! THE GOAT-BELLS RINGING. Duetting. (H. Smart.) 3s. Free for 19 stamps. London: ROBERT COCKS and Co., New Burlington-street, W. All Music-sellers.

On Thursday, the 28th inst. (One Shilling), No. 70, **THE CORNHILL MAGAZINE** for OCTOBER. With Illustrations by George Du Maurier and George H. Thomas.

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